Walsall
CHRONICLE

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Anti-social behaviour incidents up by nearly 10 per cent

INCREASE IN YOBS PLAGUING STREETS

Report by Craig Hughes

INCIDENTS of anti-social behaviour across Walsall have increased by more than 500 over the past year, latest figures show.

There were 6,480 reports between November 2013 and October 2014 – compared to 5,929 in the previous 12 months.

The rise of almost 10 per cent is revealed in a report from the Safer Walsall Partnership which has produced a three-year crackdown plan in a bid to cut crime. The biggest rise was seen in Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall and Shelfield, with numbers increasing from 563 to 700 during the year-long period.

However, there was an improvement in Willenhall and Short Heath where the number of reports dropped from 942 to 873.

In Aldridge, Streetly, Pheasey and Walsall Wood there were 627 incidents from November 2012 to October 2013 with 699 in the following 12 months.

In North Walsall there was a rise of 123 to 1,716 and Walsall South to 1,772 from 1,546.

In the report to chairman Khizar Hussain, it says: "There were 6,480 anti-social behaviour incidents recorded by the police within the borough between November 1, 2013, and October 31.

Personal

"This figure compared to 5,929 incidents recorded during the same period during the previous year reflecting a 9.3 per cent rise. Notably however this follows a 57 per cent reduction in average incidents per month between 2010 and 2013. Police anti-social behaviour incidents are classified under three headings: nuisance, personal and environmental.

"Analysis of incidents over the last year shows that 70 per cent were classified as nuisance, followed by 25 per cent as personal and five per cent environmental.

"Police recorded anti-social behaviour incidents make up approximately only 42 per cent of all anti-social behaviour across the borough with over half of incidents being recorded by various agencies other than the police," the report continued. Issues in the borough have included congregation of youths, mini motorbikes and playing football in the street.

Reducing the harm caused by anti-social behaviour has been highlighted as a focus for the Safer Walsall Partnership.

It comes after figures recently showed more than 4,000 firms in Walsall fell victim to crime in the same 12 months – a rise on the previous two years.

PROJECT REVVED UP THANKS TO £330,000 GRANT

Brendon Horney, aged 16, track manager Dave Higgins and Kane McArthur, 17 on the track next to the Mirus Academy

A MOTOCROSS and quad biking project set up to keep youngsters on the right track has been given a £330,000 cash boost.

The Bike Light programme in Walsall is run from a purpose-built bike track created on land next to the Mirus Academy.

Run by Frank F Harrison Community Association the project aims to keep eight to 19-year-olds on the straight and narrow.

The track was created over 25 years ago but given a revamp five years ago through the association to create the current facilities.

The programme is aimed at those involved in anti-social behaviour, or who are at risk of getting involved in criminal activities.

They are referred to the scheme, which puts them on a 10-week course and teaches a range of skills such as mechanics, learning about safe riding and carrying out track repairs.

The police and Walsall Council are on board with the programme which caters for more than 250 young people a year.

Previous funding ran out, but it has now been confirmed that £335,875 has been awarded from the Big Lottery Fund for the initiative over the next three years. The track which can be used for motocross and quad biking is based off Leamore Lane.

Liam Perrens, youth co-ordinator, at the association said the group is delighted to have been awarded the funding.

Frank F Harrison Community Association is an independent charity delivering a range of services from both the Beechdale site and other venues.

Every year the Big Lottery Fund gives out millions of pounds from the National Lottery to good causes.

TOWNSCAPE

Tower blocks set to get major upgrade

AROUND £2 million is being ploughed into improvements at two tower blocks.

The work aims to slash energy bills for more than 200 residents at Smith and Thomas House in Bloxwich.

Windows have already been fitted to each apartment and work to add a thermal wrap to both buildings is well under way.

The final part of the project will see a communal boiler installed by August.

Senior building surveyor Bryn Reece said: "The measures we are taking will make the buildings more energy efficient."

ENTERTAINMENT

Bullard at Banks's for dinner event

FORMER footballer and I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here! contestant Jimmy Bullard will be coming to Walsall for a dinner show later this year.

The ex-Fulham midfielder, who appeared on ITV's reality TV show set in the Australian jungle last year, will be at the Banks's Stadium on December 3.

Bullard also played for Fulham and Hull during his football career and has become a favourite for viewers of the Saturday night comedy quiz Play To The Whistle, with Holly Willoughby.

PLANS

Car park plan for taxis waiting area

A CAR park in Willenhall will be transformed into a taxi rank and a car wash under latest plans submitted to council planners.

The land in question is the 21-space site off Union Street.

The proposal has been put forward by A2Z and will be considered by Walsall Council planning committee over the coming months.

It comes after other car parks have been transformed for other uses, including Mercedes-Benz taking over the land off Dudley Street as part of its expansion.

INSIDE

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College chief June's right royal day

Mr and Mrs Morrow

A WALSALL College director received the royal seal of approval when she attended one of Her Majesty the Queen's prestigious Buckingham Palace garden parties.

June Morrow, director of student journey at the college, was invited to the regal event to represent the college in recognition of the contributions it has made to further education and, in particular, its outstanding work with regard to safeguarding.

June was among 7,000 guests who were specially selected to attend the party, held in the grounds of Buckingham Palace and hosted by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Guests travelled from across the UK to be part of the event and were treated to tea and cakes in the palace gardens. Principal and chief executive of Walsall College, Jatinder Sharma OBE, said: "June has dedicated 18 years to Walsall College and worked tirelessly to ensure students feel safe and are able to achieve success in an outstanding environment.

"Highly respected by everyone at the college, June will be retiring in August and will be greatly missed.

"She has been a great ambassador, not just for the college but for the further education sector in general."

Speaking after the visit, June, who attended the event with her husband, said: "It was an honour and privilege to have the opportunity to represent the college at the Queen's garden party.

"Thousands of people were there on the day, either on their own merit, or because they were representing the success and achievements of their organisations, so it was a great feeling knowing that what the college has achieved placed us among them." The garden party was held on May 20.

Troubled care home in town put up for sale

A CARE home in Willenhall that previously ran into difficulties after staff were paid late has been put up for sale after receivers were called in, it has emerged.

The Manor House, in Walsall Road, is open for business and is almost full to capacity with all but one of its 29 rooms occupied by residents.

Its affairs are now being run by the company Healthcare Management Solutions that was brought in by receiver FRP Advisory which told the Express & Star that it hopes to sell the business.

FRP director and joint receiver Arvindar Singh-Sall said: "At the time of the appointment as receivers it was apparent that there had been historical issues of which both the local authorities and Care Quality Commission were aware.

"Since our appointment, we have brought in specialists in care home management to take care of the day-to-day running of the home to ensure the well-being of its residents."We are currently working to ensure an orderly smooth sales process with the paramount aim that current residents remain housed at Manor House and all in co-ordination with the appropriate authorities and carers.

Informed

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Manor House staff for their dedication in maintaining as a priority the wellbeing of residents and we will continue to keep residents, their relatives and other carers informed of the on-going process."

Walsall Council's executive director for social care and inclusion Keith Skerman said the council had been monitoring the developments at Manor Care Home 'very closely' for months.

He said: "We are aware that receivers have been appointed and have put in place a private health care company to maintain the quality of care in the home whilst the receivers seek a buyer for the business.

"Their aim is to sell the business as a going concern so that the residents do not have to move. We will continue to monitor the situation as it develops with the primary aim to ensure the residents and their carers receive continuity of care, support and levels of service."

Couple swamped by charity junk mail

A COUPLE are at their wits' end over the number of begging letters from charities they receive – so many they say they could wallpaper the lounge with them.

Kindly Betty and Roy Griffin, from Halesowen, give to charities but say they feel 'squeezed' to give more. They fear vulnerable elderly people are becoming targets for professional fundraisers.

Mrs Cooke, aged 79, said: "These people are vultures – they're trained in the best ways to achieve the right result. It's easy to get lured into giving, and you're left feeling awful if you don't."

The couple were moved to speak out after reading of the tragic death of pensioner Olive Cooke whose body was recovered from Avon gorge in Bristol after she confided of being tormented by cold-callers from charities.

Mr and Mrs Cooke changed their telephone number three times in order to avoid such calls.

Retired dinnerlady Betty said: "We got a block put on the line but it only lasted three months. The last time we changed our number we went ex-directory. This is what Olive was having to put up with - phone calls day and night. It's like they're entitled to a donation - it's pressure."

The good-hearted pair have always given due consideration to the charities they support, giving £5 monthly donations to the RSPCA and the Dogs Trust and making further one-off contributions during the year. She says the number of charity requests they receive has escalated in the past year, with a pile six inches deep if gathered together, arriving every month. "I could wallpaper our lounge with them there are so many," says the grandmother-of-two.

Betty Griffin from Halesowen, with some of the post and free gifts

Health staff blunders see patient notes left on train

PATIENT details were left on a train and more than 120 sickness absence letters were sent to the wrong people in a series of health staff blunders in Walsall.

A bag containing community records relating to 13 babies was also stolen from the car of a community nurse during the last 12 months.

It comes as the number of staff complaints at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust about health records and referral letters not being available has risen.

Serious incidents included a member of staff leaving a clinical handover sheet, containing the names, addresses, and clinical details of 23 patients in a magazine on a train in February.

In the same month a total of 125 sickness absence trigger letters – sent out to workers off sick and containing personal information – were posted to the wrong staff members. And in August last year a community nurse who was visiting a family at home had her car broken into, with a bag containing records relating to 13 babies stolen. Bosses at the trust say that since the error over the sickness letters came to light changes have been made to the system.

Dawn Clift, director of governance for the Trust, said: "These members of staff were all on sickness absence; however, the right letter was not sent to the right person due to errors in our database fields. We retrieved the letters, apologised to all staff concerned and have reviewed our system. This has resulted in additional safeguards to prevent a similar error occurring."

Football club in tribute to player

A FOOTBALL club has paid tribute to one of its young players who was killed in a car crash. Schoolboy Amar Atwal, aged 12, died two days after the crash on Hollyhedge Road, West Bromwich, which happened last Wednesday.

Two of his relatives, a 44-year-old woman and a 12-year-old boy, were also hurt and remain in hospital.

Amar, a young footballer from Great Barr who played for Willenhall-based Sporting Khalsa FC, died after being thrown from the Mitsubishi Outlander, which ended up on its roof after the collision with a Vauxhall Astra.

Officials at Sporting Khalsa said they were devastated. The club tweeted: "Devastating news to hear that one of our youth players died yesterday. #amaratwal God bless your soul."

Temporary bank to stay until July

A TEMPORARY bank will be situated in Walsall town centre until the middle of July while the main branch of the high street favourite is refurbished. HSBC will be operating from a building in Gallery Square while work is carried out on its base in Bridge Street.

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Food firms found with problems near 1,500

ALMOST 1,500 cases of food poisoning have been reported at businesses across Walsall in the past five years.

Environmental health officers have carried out 251 investigations in the last year alone.

The new figures come following high-profile cases such as Blakenall's Family Choice grocery store, which was found to be infested with more than 60 mice on the floors, shelves and in packaged foods.

In the last 12 months, 16 food premises in Walsall were given temporary closure orders and one shut voluntarily.

The main cause was pest infestations such as rats, mice and creepy crawlies.

But environmental health manager David Elrington said the number of reports of food poisoning have fallen from a high of 343 in 2010/11.

He said: "The number of cases of food poisoning that have been notified and investigated has fallen over recent years, which is encouraging."

The council has launched a crackdown on dirty and substandard food businesses around the borough.

The owner of Family Choice was hit with a £4,400 court bill earlier this year because of the mouse infestation.

It was ordered to temporarily close last October after inspectors discovered rodent-gnawed packets of crisps on display for sale.

Environmental bosses said mice carry infectious diseases, such as salmonella and E.coli and can damage food stocks and premises.

Scrap dealer hit with £5k court bill

A SCRAP metal dealer who failed to keep proper records has been hit with a court bill of more than £5,000 in one of the first prosecutions of its kind in the country.

Council officers visited Daniel Parnum's premises in Cannock, following a tip-off concerning metal cabling stolen from work on the M6. A quantity of copper cabling was found on site and Parnum could not provide any records or paperwork to verify its origin.

He denied failing to keep any records relating to the receipt of the cabling or of its disposal and failing to provide the name and address of the supplier, but was convicted. Parnum, from Walsall, was fined £4,750 by Cannock magistrates and ordered to pay £520 costs.

Restrictions in place for works

TEMPORARY traffic lights will run on Lichfield Road, at Field Road and Stoney Lane junctions in Bloxwich, during road resurfacing works. Restrictions will be in force between June 8 and 12 from 7pm and 6am.

Car collides with railway bridge

Emergency services at the scene

THIS was the scene of a serious car crash in the Black Country.

A woman had to be cut free from the wreckage and taken to hospital after her car collided with a railway bridge, closing a busy road.

West Midlands Police were called to the A34 Upper Green Lane, near the junction of Cable Drive, in Walsall at around 6.25am last Tuesday.

The woman, who was aged in her 50s, had to be freed by firefighters who used specialist cutting equipment.

She was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital with a leg injury, a suspected head injury and back pain.

Part of Upper Green Lane was closed in both directions and police directed traffic.

The bridge, above a disused railway line, also suffered damage and a structural engineer was called to the scene.

Disused

Police said the collision had caused a crack to appear on the bridge.

Walsall Fire Station warned the incident would cause 'heavy delays' on its Twitter account.

A spokesperson for West Midlands Fire Service said: "We received a call at around 6.55am.

"One car had collided with a railway bridge at a disused railway line.

"A woman was released by firefighters using cutting equipment. The vehicle was made safe and she was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital."

West Midlands Ambulance Service said the woman's injuries were not thought to be serious or life-threatening.

It was not thought that any other vehicles were involved in the collision.

Teenage pervert tricked girls into posing nude

A TEENAGER who promised young girls modelling contracts in a plot to get them to send him naked pictures over the internet has escaped a custodial term.

Adam Cooke, formerly of Willenhall, pretended to be female and used fake Facebook and Skype profiles to trick girls aged between 11 and 14.

Adam Cooke, 19

Among the accounts he used was one pretending to be 2012 Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist Lauren Thalia. The 19-year-old drew up bogus contracts and even promised a meet and greet with band One Direction if his victims posed naked on webcam.

Appearing for sentencing at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday, Judge Martin Walsh told Cooke he was very 'fortunate' to avoid immediate custody. Instead, Judge Walsh gave him a three-year community order. The teenager will be supervised by the probation service and also have to comply with a sexual harm prevention order, which includes conditions such as not installing software on his computer which can delete personal content.

Judge Walsh had said Cooke was likely receive a lengthy custodial term at an earlier hearing, but yesterday admitted the case had been 'troublesome'. He said: "These offences taken individually and collectively pass the custody threshold by a significant degree. Had you have been older you would have been going to custody for a substantial period of time."

Cooke, formerly of Trentham Avenue, Willenhall, but now of Renton Road in Fordhouses, Wolverhampton, committed the offences throughout 2013 when he was aged 16 and 17 and working as a Scout leader with children as young as six. Police received a tip-off and raided his old address seizing his computer.

Nearly 70 indecent images were discovered including 22 graphic pictures in the most serious category. Cooke later admitted several counts of inciting children to engage in sexual activity, possessing indecent images of children and taking indecent photographs of children.

Defending barrister Mr Christopher O'Gorman said: "Sadly this is a case for this generation, the use of the internet for wholly inappropriate purposes."

Fred's Foxy bit of photography

Two of the family of foxes that were spied by Fred Trow, aged 76, in the garden of his Willenhall home

THE sight of a family of foxes was a sight to savour for a Black Country photography enthusiast after they were spotted in his back garden.

These beautiful creatures were captured by Fred Trow, aged 76, after they wandered into the garden of his property in Amberwood Close near Willenhall's fire station.

The amateur photographer says he first spotted the female adult about three weeks ago. He recalls, at first, being unsure if she was pregnant or rearing young due to her appearance.

Then one day the female turned up with a male out-of-the-blue foraging for food at the premises. The cub was also with them but Mr Trow was unable to capture the young one on camera before it ran off.

"On the evening I took the picture, my wife was in the kitchen cooking our evening meal and saw the mother and a cub from the kitchen window," he said.

"It was a beautiful sight."

Mr Trow, a retired senior local government officer, took up photography only about five years ago.

He now attends a group with other enthusiasts at Coltham Gallery at the Holy Trinity Church centre based in Coltham Road, Short Heath.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Treadmill event brings in £180

A TREADMILL event to raise funds for good causes has raised almost £180 towards the Mayor of Walsall's charity appeal. The fundraising Red Robe Run last month made £176. It was held at the Stan Ball Centre, Abbotts Street, in Bloxwich.

Outgoing mayor Councillor Pete Smith also took part. The sum will go towards the annual civic appeal set up for 2014/2015 – split between the Bloxwich Community Partnership; the Black Country Multiple Sclerosis Society branch, Macmillan Cancer Support Walsall; and Heartcare.

Rose planting to mark week

A MEMORY rose was planted by a councillor to mark Dementia Awareness Week. An event was held by Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership at the old Bloxwich Hospital.

Councillor Richard Worrall was invited to the day which saw patients and their loved ones enjoy a free meal and celebration.

He planted a memory rose – called Golden Memories – to mark the week.

Councillor Worrall said: "Dementia is close to my heart, so it is great that events like this show that living well with dementia is possible."

Town's revamp work under way

LONG-AWAITED work to repair roads and footpaths in Willenhall town centre has started.

The first phase will see roads given fresh surfaces, pavements repaired and bollards installed in Market Place, Union Street and along Stafford Street to the traffic island junction with Field Street.

Ward Councillor Diane Coughlan said: "This is an issue that I have campaigned for. It's about time Willenhall had some money spent on it."

Housing offices plan for empty shop block

AN empty shop and maisonettes in Beechdale are to be converted into housing offices, under plans. Beechdale Community Housing want to take over new space in Stephenson Square to make room for 25 workers.

A shop which has been vacant for more than 10 years and four upstairs maisonettes will be revamped.

An application has been submitted to Walsall Council and will be considered by the planning committee or officers under delegated powers.

Fare library plan

A WALSALL primary school has lodged plans to open a library on a London double decker bus. Old Church of England Primary School in School Street wants to park the bus in the playground and fill it with books to free up space within the main school building.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THE reason we find the hacksaw tale so disturbing is that we like to think modern surgery is incredibly high-tech and intricate. In fact, during many bone operations, there is plenty of banging, sawing, drilling and screwing. A pal who is a surgeon once objected to my description of his job as middle-class plumbing. "There's a lot of carpentry, too," he insisted.

OUR changing language. Or, to be strictly accurate, the Germans' changing language which we might consider adopting. Our Teutonic cousins have started referring to youngsters using iPads and smartphones as Generation Kopf unten, the heads-down generation. Very apt.

SADLY, we will never know the answer to the most intriguing question in Ireland's referendum on gay marriage: how would the clergy of Craggy Island have voted? I suspect Father Ted would have been a No, Jack would have been a Yes and Dougal would have gone to the police station instead of the polling station.

SAME-sex marriage in Ireland came about not merely through lobbying by gays but on the secret votes of millions of heterosexuals who have nothing but goodwill towards the gay community. If nothing else the Irish referendum should provide food for thought for those gays who like to convince themselves that everybody hates them. On this showing, two-thirds of the population loves them.

ONE of the many great public services performed by this column was to draw your attention to Car Share (BBC1), the brilliant Peter Kay comedy based on the blissfully simple idea of a supermarket manager giving a member of his staff a lift to work each day. Six episodes were a delight and what a joy it was to see both Kay and his co-star Sian Gibson occasionally losing it in fits of laughter. But now there is talk of a second series. Oh, beware. The secret of great comedy is to leave the punters wanting more. That is what John Cleese and Connie Booth wisely did when they ended Fawlty Towers after just 13 episodes. At the other end of the scale was Last of the Summer Wine which just went on and on.

IT is hard to question the accepted theory of evolution without being cast as a religious nut. But how many of us rational atheists were fascinated by the display of insect-eating plants at Chelsea Flower Show? The best-known of these has trigger-hairs on its jaws. It ignores an insect touching one of the hairs once. But at the second touch, the jaws snap close. So what we have here is a plant that knows how to count. Using Darwin's theory of natural selection and survival of the fittest, how on earth did the Venus fly trap evolve?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Tributes after former mayor dies

TRIBUTES have been paid to a former mayor and Freeman of Walsall who was a pillar of the community for decades.

Colin Beilby was a school governor and councillor in the town for more than 30 years before his retirement. The accountant by trade died at the age of 96.

As a Conservative councillor in the Palfrey ward, he had a particular interest in education and was previously a chairman of governors at Joseph Leckie – where he has a teaching block named in his legacy.

His son Malcolm, aged 70, said: "I have had calls from so many people offering their condolences." Mr Beilby was originally from Yorkshire but moved to the Lanesfield area of Wolverhampton in the 1930s.

He served with the armed forces during the Second World War and was a member of the Normandy Veteran's Association. The keen cricket fan then moved to Walsall in the 1950s after starting work in the borough, going on to live in both the Delves and Highgate.

The father-of-two, who supported Wolves but also followed the results of the Saddlers, worked at Herbert, Pepper & Rudland in the town centre until 1980.

He was first elected as a councillor in 1973, and Malcolm said his father was honoured after serving as Mayor in 2001. But then he became an honorary freeman in 2010.

Mr Beilby, who also leaves behind wife Joan, 92, and daughter Lesley, 62, was also heavily involved with St Gabriel's church in Delves and also with the Walsall South District Scouts.Malcolm said: "He was a person with high integrity."

The funeral takes place at St Gabriel's Church, Walstead Road, Delves, on June 23. People are asked to make donations to Joseph Leckie Community Association rather than flowers.

Colin Beilby as mayor

Josie sacked after a day as salon egged

Josie was spotted mopping floors wearing high-heels on her first day

Josie was apparently cleaning windows, offering this photo opportunity

The remains of the eggs on the window sill of the salon in Station Street

BENEFITS scrounger Josie Cunningham has apparently been fired from her job at a tanning salon in Walsall after one day.

Report by Deborah Hardiman

The 24-year-old, who is best known for getting breast implants paid for by the NHS, landed a job at Bondi Tanning, in Station Street in the centre of Walsall, even though the town is miles away from her home in Yorkshire.

She was spotted mopping floors and cleaning windows at the salon, giving photographers an ideal opportunity to get pictures of the publicity-seeking mother.

But her time there was somewhat short-lived after news was leaked on Twitter that she was working there and the business was pelted with eggs.

Egged

The salon, in Station Street, posted a picture of their front window on Twitter, with the words: "After yesterday's press attention, we had our windows egged! Josie Cunningham no longer works for us."

Mother-of-three Josie is said to have applied for the job after it was advertised on the job website Gumtree with an appeal for 'bubbly personalities' who could go on to manage the shop full time.

The advert said: "We are looking for an enthusiastic and confident individual to join the team at Bondi Tanning Studio. If you enjoy reading Heat magazine and watching the Kardashians then you'll fit in great."

Abuse

"We are looking for bubbly personalities who would like to progress and ultimately go on to manage the shop full time.' Her agent Rob Cooper announced her whereabouts on Twitter saying: 'She going to kill me but Josie's got a job at Bondi Tanning in Walsall.

"She's working next Monday. Go say hi."

But bosses were forced to ask her to leave after passers-by started shouting abuse. They then pelted the shop with eggs.

Miss Cunningham admitted two years ago that she had £4,800 worth of breast enhancement surgery paid for by the NHS to increase her bust from a size 32A to 36DD.

She claimed she needed the surgery because she had been bullied since the age of 14 for being flat chested. It also emerged that she received botox on the NHS.

£35m plan is revealed for site by DX Freight

A DELIVERY company is to spend £35 million redeveloping a 44-acre site in the Black Country to create a new base for its 240-strong workforce.

DX Freight - formerly Nightfreight – is keeping the exact site of its new home a closely guarded secret.

All bosses will say is that the new base is around 3.5 miles from its current sites at Crestwood House, in Birches Rise, and Ashmore Lake Way, both in Willenhall.

Parent company DX Group says its DX Freight business employs 120 people at each site and they will be brought together at the new facility.

DX is a parcel and mail delivery company employing more than 3,200 staff and 2,100 couriers and owner/drivers around the UK. It floated on the AIM small stock market last year and its most recent full-year financial figures show it making £34.4m profit on revenue of £304.2m. It delivers around 170 million items a year.

The Willenhall business used to be known as Nightfreight and was bought by DX in 2012, which renamed it DX Freight. At the time it was seen as an "under invested and poorly performing business" that DX acquired as a turnaround opportunity.

In a statement to the City, the company said it had reached an agreement to buy a 44-acre site, subject to securing planning consent for its new base.

Bosses said: "The estimated capital investment required for this major project is approximately £35m, including the site purchase."

Bollards to be put outside school

NEW bollards will be erected on a street outside a school following concerns from parents over child safety.

Parents had contacted ward councillors with their concerns for safety in Greenholm Road outside Greenholm Primary School, in Great Barr.

Bollards are going to be installed on the verge designed to keep children safe when crossing the road.

It comes after motorists were seen parking up on verges near pavements by the school. Double yellow lines are also being considered for problems during drop-off and pick-up times.

Ward Councillor Keith Linnecor said: ""I have since insisted the district transportation engineer see the situation for himself and he has now agreed to have some bollards installed."

Patrols stepped up over nuisance bikes

POLICE patrols have been stepped up at a park in Willenhall due to off-road bikers causing a nuisance. Two bikes have been seized after complaints from residents about the riders at Rough Wood Country Park and action is now being taken by police.

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Homes plan for former businesses in borough

HOMES are being lined up for former Walsall business sites in regeneration plans.

Apartments will be built on separate parcels of land in Aldridge and Willenhall if given the go-ahead.

It comes as sites around the borough, including old school ones, are now being earmarked for redevelopment. The former Brico accident and repair centre in Stubbers Green Road, Aldridge, is being considered for residential use. It will be demolished and replaced with a combination of 11 two and three bed apartments.

The application put forward through agent Alan Thurstance says: "The site to which this application relates, known as Brico, is allocated within a core employment area.

"However, Stubbers Green Road is now predominantly developed for residential purposes, with apartments located adjacent to the application site and within the vicinity. During the design process, we feel the opportunity has arisen to provide a contemporary, stand-alone, high quality apartment block that is worthy to occupy the final parcel of land before the wildlife corridor and canal."

Fresh plans also been submitted to the council for homes on vacant industrial land off Villiers Street, Willenhall. Permission was previously in place for 14 apartments but the scheme is no longer considered commercially viable.

There is now a new proposal for 10 three-bed houses on the land, described as 'starter homes.'

Huge piles of soil to allow for road

LARGE amounts of soil have been moved to allow for a multi-million pound road revamp in the Black Country, council chiefs have said.

More than 8,000 cubic metres of soil has been removed to help widen the carriageway on Bentley Mill Way, as part of the £26m highways improvement scheme in Pleck and Darlaston.

The road which runs underneath James Bridge aqeuduct is being lowered by around 1.5 metres to enable HGVs to pass through, reducing the risk of hitting and weakening the 200-year-old structure.

The stretch of carriageway at the junction of Cemetery Road is being resurfaced, with new traffic signals to be installed. The entire scheme is expected to be completed in June 2016.

Road closed for resurfacing bid

A ROAD closure will be in place during works being carried out. It is being completed along Queslett Road at the Kings Road and Collingwood Drive roundabout, Great Barr, overnight on Saturday and Sunday.

Robbers' ambush caught on CCTV

The masked men seen on CCTV

MASKED robbers ambush their unsuspecting victim, punching him and then spraying him with a fire extinguisher in front of his seven-year-old son in broad daylight.

This shocking CCTV footage shows the moment Kuventhiran Sithambaranathan was violently attacked within seconds of leaving his parked car. Images of the terrifying ordeal faced by the petrol station manager, who feared he was going to be stabbed or killed, have been released by police for the first time.

Mr Sithambaranathan was going to cash in just over £4,000 takings at the post office when he was set upon in broad daylight in Hall Street, Darlaston. The CCTV shows the victim park up, get out of his car and go towards the back door. A red Audi then appears around the corner and pulls up alongside him.

Two masked men then run around the corner and head straight towards the petrol station worker, dragging him away and punching him as his young son remains in his car.

A third robber goes behind the Audi and pulls out the fire extinguisher, which creates a smokescreen as the red car pulls forward.

As they move out of shot, the man with the extinguisher runs over and sprays Mr Sithambaranathan directly in the face before the men grab the takings and flee. One of them can be seen getting into the Audi A4 with false number plates, A61HBH which flees and then speeds off along Wolverhampton Street. Speaking about the 'frightening' ordeal at around 11.15am on February 7, Mr Sithambaranathan said: "I thought they were going to stab or kill me."

Rise of 40 per cent in domestic abuse reports

REPORTS of domestic violence crimes in Walsall have increased by almost 40 per cent in just 12 months, figures have shown.

There were 1,606 offences across the borough between November 2013 and October 2014, compared to 1,171 the year before.

The figures are revealed in a report from the Safer Walsall Partnership which comprises Walsall Council, West Midlands Police, NHS Walsall, Probation Service and West Midlands Fire. The biggest increase has been in the North Walsall where reports of domestic violence crimes went from 308 between November 2012 and October 2013 to 454 in the next 12 months. Overall, there was a 437 rise.

Campaigns to encourage residents to come forward and highlight any such violence has been attributed as a factor in the increase.

A report as part of the community safety plan says: "There were 1,606 domestic violence offences recorded throughout the borough during the period November 1, 2013, to October 31, 2014, compared to 1,171 offences during the same period in the previous year – an increase of 37 per cent.

Increasing

"It is also of note that over the last two years 13 per cent of crimes against adults are recorded as domestic violence. The current monthly average for domestic violence crimes is 137 offences per month, compared to 84 offences 12 years ago which represents a 63 per cent increase. There has been an increasing trend in domestic violence crimes over the last two years.

"Potential reasons for this increase include work done by West Midlands Police to ensure domestic abuse crimes are correctly recorded and publicity and awareness raising through initiatives such as Operation Sentinel.

"As such, although the level of increase is certainly a cause for some concern, this will at least in part be a result of agencies successfully uncovering crimes that were previously 'hidden.'

Councillor Khizar Hussain, chairman of the SWP policing and crime board, said: "There has been an increase in the number of domestic abuse reports, however, this could be due in part to the publicity surrounding access points for reporting and work to encourage victims to come forward."

Walkers raise thousands for Nepal

104-year-old Baba Jauja Singh leads out a charity walk in aid of victims of the Nepal earthquakes

A CHARITY walk has helped raise thousands of pounds for a Black Country man to take with him to Nepal to help in the relief effort in the wake of two major earthquakes.

Around 70 people, ranging from children to the world's oldest runner Baba Fauja Singh, 104, took on the 11.5mile route at Aston University sports ground which generated around £4,000.

But Walsall-born Randhir Heer said he thinks he will have as much as £20,000 by the time he flies out to Nepal in a few weeks.

The 42-year-old from Bosty Lane along with members of his Midland Langar Seva Society have been out doing street collections since just before the second devastating earthquake on May 12.

Mr Heer said: "People are without their homes and everything in Nepal and the situation is really bad. The walk was fantastic, the generosity of people was just awesome. People were pulling over in their cars and putting notes in."

Father-of-three Mr Heer, who works as a driver, started up Midland Langar Seva Society in 2013 after returning from relief work in India which had become badly hit by floods. He started by providing homeless people in Walsall with food and then neighbouring parts of the Midlands, but since, his cause has spread nationwide.

NEWS IN BRIEF

£80k scheme to reduce accidents

IMPROVEMENTS totalling £80,000 are being considered for a main route in Walsall in a bid to cut the number of accidents. Pedestrian islands and new road markings are being earmarked for Lichfield Road, between Shelfield and Walsall Wood.

Highways bosses at Walsall Council are looking at the scheme which would cost just over £80,000 as part of improved safety measures.

Funding for the project still needs to be secured and comes as part of a review of routes around the borough by the authority.

Dwight to light up dinner event

FORMER Manchester United and Aston Villa star Dwight Yorke is coming to Walsall to host a sporting dinner later this year.

The now Sky Sports pundit will speak about his career including the treble winning season and captaining Trinidad at a World Cup. He will be joined by comedian Gary Marshall at the sports dinner at Banks's Stadium, Bescot Crescent on December 10.

Tickets are priced £37.50 including a meal and available from the Banks's Stadium ticket office or by calling 01922 651414 or 01922 651 416.

Railings put up to stop bikers

METAL fencing and gates have been installed in a bid to stop nuisance off-road bikers getting onto a field near a nature reserve in Walsall.

Police have been working with the council to reduce anti-social behaviour caused by riders at fields at the rear of Glastonbury Crescent, Bloxwich.

Metal railed fencing and gates have now been installed at the Vernon Way access to the field. Railings have also been erected at access points along Glastonbury Crescent.

Arson cases in fall across borough

THE number of cases of arson in a Black Country borough has fallen over the last two years.

There were 104 incidents around Walsall between November 2013 and October 2014, figures have shown.

This is in comparison with 117 during the same period between 2011-2012.

The statistics have been released by the Safer Walsall Partnership which consist of representatives from council, police and fire service.

Manhole repairs

MOTORISTS will face delays during manhole frame and cover repairs today, Thursday. Temporary traffic signals will be in place along Wilkin Road, Brownhills and in Erdington Road, Aldridge, between 9.30am and 4pm. The restrictions will operate along Clayhanger Lane.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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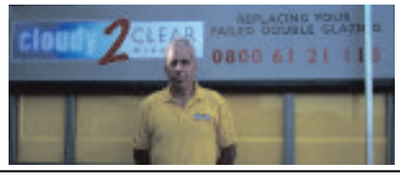
We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Does Brum really rank as tourism hotspot?

WELL fancy that, I never knew I was so well travelled. But according to top travel publication the Rough Guide, I have seen 20 per cent of the world's greatest places to visit. The popular travel guide has published its list of the 10 greatest cities in the world, and I've been to two of them. And I suspect that everybody reading this will have been to at least one.

Now, I must confess I have never been to Johannesburg. Or Wellington in New Zealand, although it looks jolly nice in the pictures. Salta in Argentina? Sorry, nope.But hey, I've been to Malaga, and with its charming marble streets, pleasant climate, and superb art galleries, I would have no qualms about recommending it.

And then we come to the only British entry on the list – Birmingham.

Now I'm not one of those sneering Brummie bashers, who take great pleasure in running down Britain's second city at every possible opportunity. I don't think it is any better or any worse than most major cities, and there are some decent shops and restaurants. But does it really warrant a place, ahead of Winchester, Salisbury, or even Worcester? Don't Oxford, Truro or York deserve a mention?

I only go there a handful of times a year, and I only live a 20-minute train ride away. So why would an international tourist want to visit Brummagem?

Well according to the Rough Guide, food stalls and vintage shops are springing up all over Digbeth, and "with New Street station reopening in 2015 after a much-needed renovation, now is the time to visit Birmingham." So there we have it. Takeaways, second-hand shops and a new railway station. Forgive me, but I still think I prefer Florence.

❑❑❑❑❑

FIFA chief Sepp Blatter always used to go on about the worldwide "football family." It's just a shame he never told us that the family was The Sopranos.

❑❑❑❑❑

MIND you, I would have far more confidence in the US-based investigation into alleged corruption at Fifa if the FBI man who keeps appearing on television knew the name of the sport he was probing. It's football, okay? Nobody has called it soccer since about 1978.

❑❑❑❑❑

A COUNCILLOR in Brierley Hill has said "Now that the regeneration of Dudley town centre is nearing an end, the council is turning its attention to other town centres."

As far as I can see, the roof of the market has changed colour, and a bit of the obligatory block paving. But nothing significant in the way of new shops. Remember shops, those places you used to go to buy stuff? Some people's definition of regeneration is clearly different to mine.

Man Utd players' infamous reproach with ref Andy D'Urso

Referee Jack Taylor tries to keep control in the 1974 final

Alex Hamil when he refereed at John Richards' testimonial

Blowing the whistle on region's rising refs

The role of football ref is not for everyone, but it seems there are more in our region than ever. **ADAM BURLING** reports

HAVING every decision scrutinised, becoming the target of some less than complimentary chants, fending off groups of players angry at your latest indiscretion.

Who would be a football referee? Plenty of people, it turns out – and there are now more than ever in the Black Country.

The job has its fair share of pitfalls but the Wolverhampton's referees association has just been named the largest in the UK with 132 members.

And the men in black say the thrill of taking charge of a match – whether it is watched by one man and his dog or thousands of supporters – is the biggest attraction of all.

Wolverhampton and District Referees Association chairman Phil Reade argues the future of the game relies on people being willing to put themselves forward for the thankless task of taking charge of a match.

And though the game in the lower leagues may not have changed dramatically in recent decades, referees at the top level face a whole new set of challenges with the development of technology.

They run out onto the pitch in the knowledge that any mistake will be replayed and dissected by highly paid pundits from the comfort of their TV studio.

But they keep doing it – and hundreds of officials dream of getting the chance to blow the whistle at the country's top matches.

When Premier League referees' judgement comes into question, it is worth remembering that he has worked for at least 10 years to reach that standard. Referees start at the bottom and have to climb the ladder, getting assessed three times every 20 games to step up a level. It takes plenty of determination to make it to level one and lead out some of the world's highest paid footballers, but Alan Wiley from Burntwood showed it was possible when he became one of the country's best known officials.

Referee John Kyte, from Wombourne, who has officiated 4,600 matches, each one documented

Having his fitness questioned by an irate Alex Ferguson after Manchester United's 2-2 draw with Sunderland in 2009 was a world away from his days in the West Midlands (Regional) League.

Mr Reade, himself a level four official, says only people who love football would put up with the abuse and years of hard work.

The 48-year-old said: "It's a very lonely world when you're a referee. It's you against 22 players but you get used to it and you build up the experience.

"Referees that reach the top have put the hours in on cold Sunday mornings.

"They do it because they love the game, not for the money, and it takes a lot of work to make your way in the game."

Mr Reade qualified as a referee in 1997 but is now stepping back from the sport as he is struggling to fit it around his day job as a postman.

But he is confident the next generation of officials will be better than ever.

"We hope that one day one of our members will make it to the Premier League," he said. "Plenty of them are good enough if they stick at it."

It is unlikely there will be many that will match Wolverhampton-born Jack Taylor's achievements, though, after he refereed the 1974 World Cup Final between West Germany and the Netherlands and famously awarded two penalties in the first 30 minutes.

Tributes poured in from legends including Sir Trevor Brooking when Mr Taylor died aged 82 in 2012 - and it raises questions over whether today's referees would command the same respect from the current stars. Mr Taylor told his friends that refereeing was easier in his era when there were fewer cameras and less player power.

And the Black Country's longest-serving referee John Kyte said the stars of the 1960s and 70s were more well-mannered.

The 71-year-old chalked up more than 4,600 games during a 54-year odyssey that took him from the Dixon Street playing fields in Parkfields, Wolverhampton, to Anfield and Old Trafford.

He said: "Cloughie was a complete gentleman. I always used to think how well-mannered his teams were. There were some big name players, internationals like Shilton and the rest.But when I would go and inspect their studs they would all lift their legs up without question."

But he insisted this should not put anyone off pursuing a career as as referee, as being part of the weekly football ritual can become a way of life.

Preserve

"Football has been my life," he added. "I just love getting out there and meeting people, going to the different grounds."

Other famous former members of the Wolverhampton association are Alex Hamil, who graced the turf of every stadium in the football league during a 35-year career as an official, and Walter Wakeman who finally hung up his whistle at the age of 80 in 2008.

The WRA started life in 1910 as a sub-association of the Birmingham Referees' Association and branched out on its own a dozen years later.

And Mr Reade is keen to preserve its rich heritage and keep attracting younger members. He said many now realised that refereeing could be a 'job for life', and school pupils as young as 14 are now taking courses as part of a Duke of Edinburgh schemes.

Though the rise of technology and its impact on the game seems unstoppable, he insists there will always be a need for a referee.

"As soon as you put the black uniform on it all changes and the players think: 'We were rubbish today – who can we blame?'" he said.

"But without a referee you haven't got a game."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Rules are rules, over bus passes

FROM time to time the subject of pensioners using bus passes, and being refused on buses before 9.30am, by the driver, is raised in these columns.

The most recent was on Saturday, May 23, when an anonymous correspondent was annoyed that a wheelchair user had been refused access to a bus at 9.19am.

These passes are wonderful and we are lucky to have them, after all the efforts over the years to withdraw them for financial reasons. We can use them not only in our own area, as was the case when they were introduced, but all over the country, wherever we may choose to take our holidays. Of course, with them comes minor conditions such as not using them before 9.30am. We all understand this. After all, the driver is only working to instructions so if this is what some writers call being a 'jobsworth' driver so be it, and no doubt the time of access is recorded on the machine when the pass is used, leaving the driver open to be taken to task by the bus operators.

R SUMMERFIELD
Walsall

Cameron may offer a solution

WITH David Cameron announcing the Government's intention to take control of those schools which are constantly failing, away from local councils, is this the glimmer of light for Walsall's schools forever at the bottom of the league tables?

It was John Prescott way back in 2000, reading the riot act to the inept Walsall councillors, that brought about the schools being put under the control of SERCO.

With the council passing over the failed administration, then like housing, being put into the hands of Walsall Housing Group with its failed staff – being left to do whatever.

Now we are past the elections and Sir Richard Shepherd has retired, I have written to Wendy Morton, his successor, reminding her of the results of decades of failing council management of Walsall's education.

This has not only blighted the lives of so many thousands of children, but the economics of the borough.

RAY HAMMOND
Aldridge

A proud year for us in top borough role

WE were appointed Mayor and Mayoress of Walsall on June 16, 2014 and the time has just fled by!

In Walsall, the position of Mayor is offered to the councillor who has served the longest period of time on the council irrespective of party political affiliation.

I am grateful that I was offered the position by a unanimous vote of the council last year and pleased that I accepted this unique position.There have been so many memorable people and engagements that it is difficult to pick out highlights. I wish to acknowledge all those who have given support to us in our year of office.

Firstly, a big thank you to the staff in the Mayor's office: Verity Edwards and her assistant Lucy Badger are the Mayor's 'anchor', ensuring that the Mayor and Mayoress as well as the Deputy Mayor are able to fulfil their duties.

Along with these, we thank other council officers and councillors for their help, guidance, advice.

Thank you to the thousands who are raising funds for good causes, to voluntary groups, schools, colleges, universities, youth groups and local businesses.

In a nutshell, thanks to everyone who has made our year as Mayor and Mayoress of Walsall, one we will never forget, making us so proud of the borough of Walsall.

CLLR PETE SMITH
Mayor of Walsall

Thanks for messages of support

OVER the last two months I have been contacted by over 30 local people whom have kindly asked after my health and, inquired about when my next letters would be published.

Thank you for your generous and warming comments.

I am currently researching and writing my first book and now have time to return to my weekly words after a hectic time with family, business and democracy.

Last weekend I visited one of the most beautiful areas of the Midlands – the Golden Valley and Hay on Wye for the excellent festival. Two of my favourite things, books and writers make for a great event. I encourage everyone to visit. If my letters provide readers with a moment's pleasure or otherwise I am delighted. Look out for some comments on local issues and, a forthcoming book event.

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Walsall

Time Brits got our roar back

SO the pro EU supporters have stated if we Brits leave the EU we will have to pay tariffs on our goods.

So what? Two can play that game.

We export less to them; they depend on us to buy their goods.

So I know who will be worse off and I doubt it will be us Brits.

This argument does not really hold water – it's about time that the 'Lion got its roar back'.

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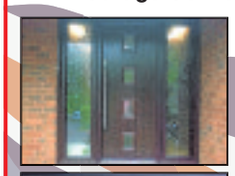

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Homes and HQ scheme at site of old school

A FORMER school site in Willenhall may be transformed into dozens of homes and the new HQ of a national engineering firm.

Part of the old Little London buildings will be demolished to make way for a combination of business and residential use. However, some of the front of the school, including the original entrance and clock tower, will stay.

By Craig Hughes

BE Wedge Holding wants to create its new headquarters at the site. The firm was founded almost 150 years ago in Willenhall by John Wedge. The remainder of the site will then be sold on for residential purposes, with 30 houses.

Plans have been submitted to Walsall Council. There would be parking for 60 vehicles to accommodate staff and visitors.

The application lodged by agent Roger Evans said: "In recognition of the importance of the former school buildings setting within the town centre conservation area, it was determined that the whole of the building onto Stafford Street and a large proportion of the return frontage to Pinson Road including the original entrance and clock tower would be retained for refurbishment and conversion."

Little London Junior School, Lakeside Junior School and Clothier Street Junior Schools, all closed in 2007 and merged into Fibbersley Park Primary, in Noose Lane. The council previously revealed it was looking to sell off the sites to help raise £3 million towards education.

All of the sites have attracted fly-tippers and anti-social behaviour over the years. Walsall Housing Group and Galliford Try Partnerships are behind new proposals for 48 homes.

There are also plans for around 40 homes on the old Brownhills Market site.

Caw! Look at that as buzzard is chased off

Mark Schlicht, of Bloxwich, took this aerial wildlife picture of a buzzard under attack by a crow

THIS stunning image captures a crow dive bombing a buzzard in mid-air over fields in the Black Country.

The shot was taken over the farmers fields in Fishley Lane, Bloxwich by Mark Schlicht, who said the buzzard was being chased by the crow for a quite some time before it managed to fly away.

Mr Schlicht, aged 44, of Simmonds Road in the town enjoys taking photographs of nature in his spare time and said he was luck to capture the image on camera.

"My back garden backs onto the canal and a some fields, and I was feeding the ducks when I noticed a group of birds squabbling," he said.

"There were three crows chasing a buzzard at first so I decided to go back into the house and get my camera out.

"It took about ten minutes set to up and I had the wrong lens on it so I had to change that too, but two of the birds were still there which was a stroke of luck."

Mr Schlicht runs his own business selling incense sticks, and has now been taking nature and wildlife shots for nearly five years.

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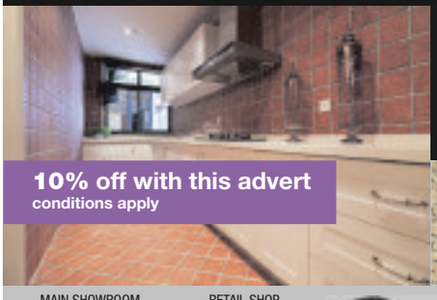

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Owners of eyesore land urged to start building

TRADERS and residents in Walsall are pleading with the owners of an eyesore plot of land once occupied by a pub to build properties on it after growing problems with fly-tipping.

The Tannery stood empty for a decade in Burrowes Street before it was demolished last year.

Owners Gora Developments got the go ahead to build 12 homes but no properties have ever materialised, with bosses admitting because of spiralling costs, the project will not be carried out in its present form.

Since the pub was torn down last year, the site has attracted fly-tippers with mattresses and rubbish being dumped there.

While two men, aged 35 and 30, were arrested for theft by police in earlier this year after wooden fencing panels used to secure the grounds were removed in broad daylight.

Councillors Tina Jukes and Chris Jones at the Tannery pub site

Mattresses

A Baptist church, row of shops and flats overlook the land.

Sally Smith, owner of hair salon Crowning Glory in Green Lane, said: "It is an absolute mess and we would like to see something done about it.

"There are mattresses dumped in there and it is not a pretty sight to look at for our customers and visitors to the community."

Birchills-Leamore Councillor Chris Jones said: "We hope to see some work start soon to build these promised properties.

"It is now an absolute eyesore. There are presently three mattresses and a gas canister dumped in there and we fear that it is going to get worse as the months go by unless the owners get a move on with the construction work.

"The state it's in at the moment, it's just giving the green light to fly-tippers to keeping going there."

When the old pub was knocked down, wooden fencing was used to secure the site but was removed. The owners have since replaced the hoardings with metal fencing.

Gora Developments, based in London, has planning permission for 12, two, three, four and five-bedroom town houses with underground parking.

When the scheme was approved five years ago, many residents and traders were furious it was given the go-ahead, saying it would look out of character with the area.

Gora's development advisor Raj Kumar said: "The scheme has become too expensive to build.

"At the end of the day the housing associations and other builders have shown no interest in taking it on. It would be commercial suicide to start building. There are discussions in the pipeline with the council for a revised scheme."

He added that the firm was willing to listen to residents.

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Beauty student Giorgi-Lee's career cruises ahead

A BEAUTY student at Walsall College has landed her dream job, and will set sail in her career, as a therapist on board a cruise ship.

Giorgi-Lee Baker will take to the sea on a Steiner Cruise Ship after impressing recruiters with her presentation and practical skills during an interview.

The level three beauty student will set sail later this year and will travel across the globe while working in the on-board spa.

Giorgi-Lee, aged 18, said: "This is the job of a lifetime and I couldn't believe it when I was told I'd been successful. I'm looking forward to seeing different parts of the world, while earning money doing a job I love."

The final year student at Walsall College, who is from Cannock, added: "I've gained a lot of experience working in the college's onsite beauty salon providing treatments to clients over the past two years, which has really helped me to increase my confidence and pushed me to develop my skills as a beauty therapist.

"I'm very grateful to my tutors as they've supported and encouraged me throughout my time at the college and kept me on track to achieving top marks in all my exams." Giorgi-Lee will start her training with the cruise ship in August and will visit a number of exotic destinations across the globe while working. Her tutor, Becky Newens, said: "We are extremely proud of Giorgi-Lee and what she has achieved. She is a model student who will be missed by many of the clients in the salon.

"It really goes to show the variety of opportunities that exist within the beauty sector and how our industry-focused training can send students well on their way to achieving great things."

Beauty student Giorgi-Lee Baker gets ready to travel the world after landing a job on a cruise ship

A&E waiting times improve but chiefs facing £100k fine

A&E WAITING times at Walsall Manor Hospital have improved but chiefs are expecting to be hit with a fine of more than £100,000 for missing government targets.

The hospital has been battling against rising admissions, with growing numbers of patients coming across from Staffordshire, since the winter.

Trust figures show a total of 95 per cent of patients were seen within the four-hour mark for the week ending May 10 – the national target – compared to 87.1 per cent in April and 88.2 per cent in March.

In the first week of April just 74.8 per cent of patients were seen within four hours.

A report to the Walsall Healthcare Trust stated that A&E performance declined and currently remains below the 95 per cent target and financial penalties were expected to be £106,650 for last month.

The trust's average admissions during April were 56 per day and 57 per day in March. The report stated there were six days last month when 90 or more ambulances arrived at the department.

It was among several hospitals forced to activate major incident plans this year to cope with a surge in demand when it escalated to level 4 on two days and level 3 on 21 days in April, compared to one day and 12 days respectively in March.

In addition outbreaks of norovirus resulted in Wards 14 and 15 being completely shut to new admissions and transfers, hindering patient flow in the hospital.

At a trust board meeting, chief operating officer Richard Cattell said: "April's figures show a month of two halves. The first bit was actions to improve patient flow. The plan for Easter weekend was largely delivered. The two weeks after Easter were met with larger numbers of people being admitted and they also stayed longer. We are at 94.7 per cent for May."

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Centre of attraction as Arboretum venue opens

WITH its smart wooden exterior and gleaming windows, the showpiece of the multi-million pound revamp of Walsall Arboretum is standing proud.

The visitor centre forms a final major milestone in the transformation of the town's premier park which started five years ago.

With its striking appearance and modern interior the building has been under construction since last year as part of the £7.6m scheme.

Located in the heart of the park adjacent to the Centre Green it features facilities including a cafe, changing rooms, classroom, a meeting room, toilets and baby changing facilities along with offices.

Contractors Willmott Dixon Ltd have also installed lighting for pathways as part of plans for an illuminated park.

Walsall leisure chief, councillor Khizar Hussain, said: "I am overjoyed at the standard with which the new visitor centre has been finished. This brand new and prestigious facility is a major asset for the arboretum and as was expected adds a definite wow factor.

"Visitors will now benefit from a truly fantastic building.

"The abundant wild bird population, varieties of trees, insects and plants can now be enhanced further by the use of this new facility as learning opportunity to groups wanting to use the park's new centre.

"Willmott Dixon Ltd has done a wonderful job on this multi-million pound restoration project and the integration of the original building has provided a really attractive addition."

Work on landscaping around the centre green will continue over the coming weeks to mark the ending of the main projects. The illuminated park aspect of the restoration will see main routes through the arboretum lit up along with its key natural features. Other work has included refurbishment of the bandstand, boathouse restored and the arboretum was given a new-look lido.

The £200,000 refurbishment of the Edwardian-style Leckie Sons of Rest building has also been carried out. The scheme is majority funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund, Walsall Council, Growth Point, Cory Environmental Trust and Veolia Environmental Trust.

Councillor Khizar Hussain and Parks Manager Louise Worton

Gurnek Singh and Paljit Kaur serve a coffee to Councillor Hussain

The cafe inside the new visitor centre

Volunteers Jo Lester and Jackie Cocken

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Part of Cunningham's Camp, Douglas, Isle of Man

Keeping watch at Cunningham's camp

Motor-bike football on Highgate Common

An AJS TT racer being tried for size

The many tents set up at Cunningham's Camp

Looking back to the glory days

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

A RECENT Memory Lane highlighting Wolverhampton's motor-cycle racing pedigree took a few readers' minds back to the glory days of AJS.

Ken Millard saw a picture of his father in the victorious AJS Isle of Man TT racing team of 1921, which he had not seen before.

Training

He remembered some photographs of the place the team stayed while on the island, Cunningham's Camp. This was a tented holiday camp started by Joseph Cunningham in the 1890s at Douglas.

It had up to 1,500 tents around some permanent buildings like the ornate dining hall, and was open for male visitors for the princely some of 17s. 6d per week.

In the First World War it was used as an internment camp and in the Second World War as a Royal Navy training camp.

Obviously when the TT races were on, it was a convenient and cheap place to stay.

Ken's father was an AJS Tester, and one of his other exploits was motor-cycle football on Highgate Common.

The games drew large crowds, and there seemed to be little in the way of Health and Safety involvement, with the riders not even wearing helmets.

Another famous AJS racer was Jack Scott, who recently donated an old canal sign to the Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre.

His grandson is so proud of his exploits he has a tattoo, of his grandfather racing his AJS in typical style.

Jack Scott and his great-grandson Daniel

Signed tattoo of Jack Scott on his grandson's arm

Funding is like gold for silver scheme

Scheme co-ordinator Carol Wilson and Maggie Briers, Kathleen Bratt, Denis Horobin and June Jamesteam

A CHARITY in Walsall is celebrating the launch of a new scheme designed to improve the lives of the over-55s.

Manor Farm Community Association, on King George Crescent, Rushall, has received three years of funding for its Silver Scheme by the Big Lottery.

The Silver Scheme offers essential services such as lunch clubs, befriending for those who are lonely or want some basic support in the home, help with home maintenance, gardening, domestic cleaning, and transport to essential services such as medical appointments. It also runs lunch clubs on Mondays and Wednesdays from Rushall Community Centre and coffee and cake on aThursday.

Carol Wilson, Silver Scheme coordinator, said: "The activities that we run give something extra for elderly people to do and enjoy."

The association is now contacting a lot of the volunteers who have previously helped out to get them to come back and get involved again. If you would like to get involved call Manor Farm Community Association on 01922 614316 or email mfcasilver@gmail.com

Health site at former Argos plan in pipeline

WALSALL'S former Argos store and a block of closed public toilets at its main shopping centre will be transformed into a walk-in health centre, under new plans.

The existing health centre will move from its base in Market Square, Digbeth, to the ground floor of the Saddlers Centre in a unit once occupied by the catalogue shop.

By Lisa O'Brien

Argos moved to the Crown Wharf retail park earlier this year.

Plans lodged with Walsall Council show the centre would have half a dozen clinical rooms, additional clinical support rooms, reception area and waiting room.

Concerns have been raised that there will be no drop-off area outside the main entrance and the waiting room may be too small to meet demand.

It comes after Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group, which is responsible for commissioning urgent care services, carried out a review into services and held a public consultation last year.

The plans for the facility, which would cover an area of more than 5,000sq ft, state that concerns have been raised about space in the waiting area and that there are up to 60 and sometimes 90 people waiting.

A report lodged with the application, said: "Parents with young children often have prams and buggies and more people now use mobility scooters – this further cramps space available."

It also airs concerns over the lack of a drop-off area and worries that there would be no room for taxis or ambulances at the proposed entrance.

The centre is due to move from Digbeth in the summer due to regeneration work in the town centre.

Health chiefs say it still faces being moved to Walsall Manor Hospital by 2020 under changes to the borough's urgent care services.

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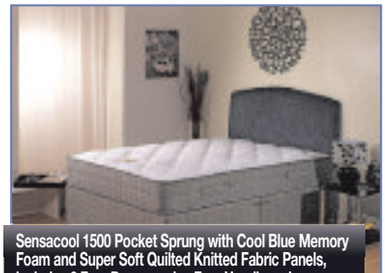

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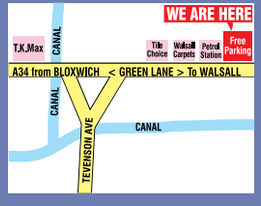

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The workforce expanded last year when six new jobs were created due to an increased work load in the factory.

Based in Reaymer Close, Bloxwich, it has produced windows and conservatories for the general public for many years, with retail installations still the largest part of the business.

Its large showroom has recently gone through a refit with a new range of products on display, including more than 20 doors – from contemporary to traditional – with features like self-locking and solid wood core with maintenance free grained colour finish inside and out.

Conservatories are still popular and there is a range on display with Pilkington active self-cleaning glass. There is also a tiled roof conservatory on display with plaster finish and internal ceiling fitted with downlighters.

Jobs are handled from start to finish – from the footings to the tiled floors – taking care of the plastering, electrics, skirting all quoted for in one job and all scheduled by Leamore Windows Ltd staff so the job runs to the dates specified.

Founders and brothers Martin and Gary Hackett at Leamore Windows Ltd

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Of the 60 employees, there are some long established staff in the factory and among the installers – some who have been with the firm from the start of the business.

Founders and brothers Martin and Gary Hackett still run the company on a day to day basis, expanding the company last year taking on new staff and increasing manufacturing due to demand for their products by local trades.

Leamore Windows Ltd has invested £150,000 back into the company buying new machinery to help with productivity and to help improve the quality of frames. Combine this with a dedicated member of staff ensuring quality control, frames are second to none.

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Action! as cinema structure emerges

CONSTRUCTION work is under way on a £12 million cinema development at Walsall Waterfront.

The steel frame for the new leisure venue can now be seen stretching up next to the Premier Inn in Wolverhampton Street.

The new town centre complex, which will also feature bars and restaurants, being built by Light Cinema and will be first in the country to boast the latest hi-tech Extreme screen, which delivers a more intense experience through super-high-quality audio and visual. The development opposite the Crown Shopping Park will also see Chiquito, Pizza Express, Bella Italia and Hungry Horse open new sites.

All the sites are expected to be completed by the end of the year. The building work is being carried out by Kier Property. Walsall's regeneration chief Councillor Mohammad Nazir said: "This is another good example of the redevelopment of the town centre. People can now physically see it happening and as the portfolio holder I welcome the investment."

It has been two decades since Walsall town centre had a cinema after the old Cannon, previously known as ABC, closed in Park Street back in 1993 to make way for the regeneration of Park Street.

Phil Dove, of Light Cinemas said: "The new cinema is due for completion in summer 2015 will therefore offer incomparable comfort and first class presentation for Walsall, on its large fully immersive screens within the cutting edge, nine-screen digital multiplex."

An updated view of the Waterfront development in Walsall showing the new cinema being built

Pupils offer ideas with elections day

MORE money for schools and hospitals were among the ideas from Walsall pupils taking part in a citizenship project. They were some of the suggestions made by children at Ryders Hayes Primary in Pelsall, when they held their own version of the general elections.

All three of the main political parties were represented by 10-year-olds or Year Fives who ran campaigns, devised manifestos and put up posters as part of efforts to learn more about the election process. They also led presentations and question time sessions in themed assemblies about democracy.

This was followed by a mock election with each class at the school taking part. Pupils showed their proof of identity, and marked their X on voting slips in booths set up, for the secret ballot to be cast.

Older pupils created a montage wall to show what they would do if they were Prime Minister. Their responses included spending more money on schools and hospitals, banning smoking and helping people with drug problems. After a tight count the Conservatives won the day, mirroring the national result on May 7.

Gripes on littering top 1,000 each year

AROUND 1,000 complaints a year are being made about littering in Walsall, bosses have said. Council chiefs are taking steps to tidy up the town with clean-up days.

The days have been organised with Walsall Housing Group in answer to residents' concerns. The authority has received 3,000 complaints about dumped litter over the last three years, the Safer Walsall Partnership said.

By Craig Hughes

The Safer Walsall Partnership comprises of a range of bodies such as the council, police, NHS Walsall, probation service and West Midlands Fire Service.

The report states: "The number of complaints about litter received by clean and green services over the last three years has remained fairly constant at around 1,000 per year.

"Results of the people's panel survey suggest that, in terms of public perception, there are particular problems of littering in Walsall, Darlaston and Willenhall town centres.

"The 'disgust' factor associated with dog fouling is also a priority for the borough's residents."

In the fight against fly-tipping, the council has launched a £100 reward initiative for information leading to a successful prosecution at court. The report presented to leisure and community chief, Councillor Khizar Hussain, adds: "Fly tipping has been the biggest source of complaints to the council's environmental health team this financial year.

"The main type of fly-tipping is household waste although the less frequent dumping of commercial waste also presents a major problem due to the size and associated cost of cleaning up the debris that has been dumped.

"It is recognised that reluctance by witnesses to give evidence makes carrying out enforcement action difficult. In an attempt to counter this, a reward scheme which pays £100 for a successful prosecution has been launched."

Beth on top of the world, down under

YOUTUBE star Beth Ford has made it to the top of an Australian music chart with her version of I'm Always Chasing Rainbows. The Bloxwich teenager's song was played on the Aussie radio programme, Stars of Tomorrow, during May and was announced as their No1 chart song on the show at the weekend.

The 14-year-old said: "I can't believe it. It's fantastic news to think that people on the other side of the world are listening to my music and liking it.

"It's hard to believe that the song has travelled so far so fast. I'm really thrilled."

The track is available to download free on her website and has never been officially released. However she became known around the globe when a video of her singing Pie Jesu went viral after the footage was put on YouTube.

The Walsall Academy pupil had no idea she was being secretly filmed by a family friend as she started singing in a church at Easter. The recording has also made it to Number 1 on the internet music site Hype Machine.

Beth Ford, from Bloxwich

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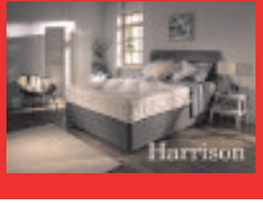

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Police search for missing schoolboy Jaspreet, aged 14

Jaspreet Khun Khun

POLICE are searching for a missing teenager from Walsall who was last seen almost a week ago.

Jaspreet Khun Khun, aged 13, was last seen at his home in Raven Road, Park Hall, at around 7pm on May 26. While other police forces have been informed of his disappearance, West Midlands Police have also launched an investigation.

As part of their efforts to find Jaspreet, officers have spoken to his family and friends, searched a number of properties and visited places he is known to frequent.

Jaspreet is described as being of Indian heritage, around 4ft tall and of slim build.

At the time he went missing Jaspreet is believed to have been wearing blue jeans, black shoes and a grey hooded top. He speaks with a local accent and has brown eyes, short black hair and a light moustache.

Anyone who has seen him should call 101.

Boxers get knockout help with £500 boost from organisations

MEMBERS of a newly-opened boxing gym have been given a £500 funding boost.

Willenhall Boxing Club was given the helping hand by garage business Charity Car Sales and the town's rotary club. The two parties came up with an idea to give the new fitness and training centre based off Ashmore Lake Road their backing.

President of Willenhall Rotary Club Terry Lewis said: "It is a tremendous venture for the people of Willenhall and Shaun and Neil deserve great credit. It not only involves the kids but people of all ages and it is something the Rotary Club and our good friend Stuart Haynes have no hesitation in supporting. Stuart, through Charity Cars, does so much for people and organisations in the town."

Charity Car Sales is situated at Chancel Industrial Estate and 18 months ago the company contacted the Rotary Club to say they hoped to use some of the money from the garage to benefit residents.

Among the projects selected was the boxing club set up by amateur boxers Shaun Hargreaves and Neil Buckland who want to assist youngsters interested in boxing to realise their dreams and keep fit.

A total of 43 people including women and children turned up on Bank Holiday Monday for its first full night in operation at the Ashmore Lake Road base.The gym is open to all ages and abilities for youngsters from 10 to18 years old.

Sessions are held Mondays to Fridays in the evenings. Non-contact ladies sessions are also available.

The charge is £2 per session and this goes towards the gym's running costs.

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Lenny goes back to his roots at club

Actor, writer and comedian Lenny Henry with young actors from Wolverhampton Tyrique Douglas, Taylia-May Campbell and Tyrese McKenzie on set for his new drama, Danny And The Human Zoo

FILMING for a new drama looking at Black Country life through the eyes of comedian Lenny Henry has taken place at a Walsall social club.

A TV production crew descended on Birchills Liberal Club the star's latest BBC project Danny And The Human Zoo about life 40 years ago.

Residents said they were pleased to see the site, in Old Birchills, being put to use for the small screen production based on the experiences of Lenny, who was born and raised in Dudley.

It was used as a location for Bilston Steel Working Men's Club and the front of the building was transformed with temporary signs.

The show is semi-autobiographical and gives a glimpse into life as a working-class teenager growing up in the 1970s as it centres around the character Danny Fearon, a talented impressionist, and his working-class Jamaican family, as he rises to fame as a stand-up comedian.

Birchills-Leamore ward representative Councillor Chris Jones said: "It is rather nice to see the area being put on the map in this way.

"I was aware that a film crew was shooting at the club. I'm pleased they chose it for Lenny's project."

The show is scheduled to go on air in August.

Travellers move on from leisure centre

A GROUP of travellers who set up an illegal camp next to a leisure centre development in Walsall Wood have left the site.

All of the 14 caravans and vehicles that pitched close to the Oak Park site for a week departed after council enforcement officers issued the group with a notice requesting them to leave the land off Coppice Road.

Aldridge North and Walsall Wood ward representative Councillor Gary Clarke said the group had now departed.

Councillor Clarke said: "They left early in the morning but we have no idea where they have gone.

"Residents in Walsall Wood are breathing a sigh of relief."

Walsall Council said arrangements have also been made to clear any debris left behind by the campers.

Travellers recently set up a camp at Aldridge Airport, in Bosty Lane.

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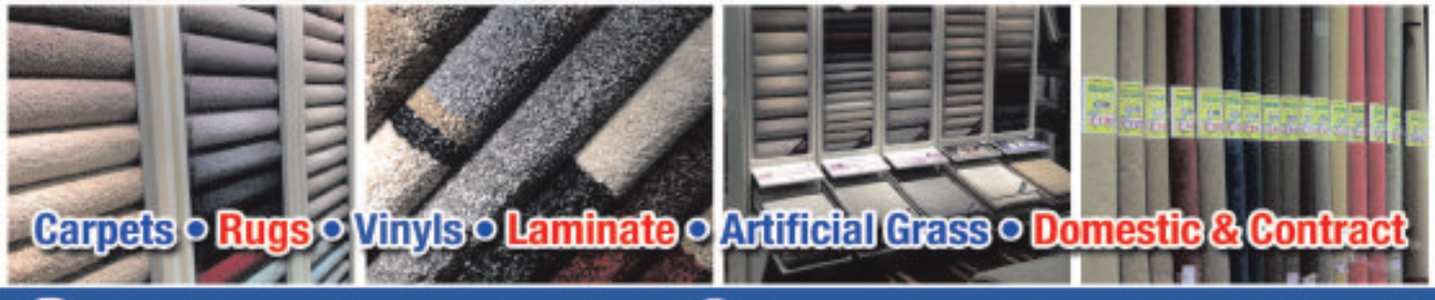

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New light shone on a dark drama

REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

The Merchant of Venice, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE Merchant of Venice remains one of Shakespeare's most controversial plays and most relevant in its dealing with issues of racism and anti-semitism.

Presented on a super shiny reflective set of burnished metallic tiles, with a pendulum ominously swinging in the background, Polly Findlay's production updates the play in modern dress — it looks like the wardrobe department have raided Primark.

She also slashes some of the text to bring it in at a pacey two hours and ten minutes. The actors sit on benches at the sides of the stage, as if eager to get on with it.

Marc Tritschler's choral music with medieval influences is lovely but at odds with the modern approach.

This is a problematic play. Modern audiences squirm at the horrible insults rained down on the central Jewish character and at a Moroccan prince being deemed unsuitable husband material because of the colour of his skin.

Intelligent

But this production makes a difficult-to-like play highly watchable.

Findlay brings in a romantic triangle subtext, a passionate kiss revealing Venetians Antonio (Jamie Ballard) and Bassanio (Jacob Fortune-Lloyd) as lovers.

This explains Antonio's odd decision to borrow from Jewish moneylender Shylock, who he hates, in order to fund Bassanio's wooing of rich heiress Portia.

Outsider — Makram J Khoury as Shylock, picture by Hugo Glendinning

Patsy Ferran gives a standout performance as the fiercely intelligent Portia, who eventually realises the nature of her intended husband's friendship with the merchant.

As Shylock Israeli Palestinian actor Makram J Khoury, his accent marking him an an outsider, radiates a wounded dignity. The scenes in which Venetians spit in his face are uncomfortable.

He remains a sympathetic character even as he sharpens his knife in readiness for vicious revenge, demanding his pound of flesh in forfeit for Antonio's debt.

Ballard's howls of terror as Antonio awaits his fate are hair-raising. This scene of victim turned intimidator surely has resonance in today's Middle East. But it certainly doesn't make Shylock's final humiliation any easier to swallow.

The Merchant of Venice remains in repertoire until September 2 and the Royal Shakespeare Company production is screened live at cinemas on July 22.

Play it Lau-dly to hear that bell

CD REVIEWS

By Danny Farragher

Lau, from left Martin Green, Kris Drever and Aidan O'Rourke

Lau
The Bell That Never Rang

KRIS Drever is one of those singers who has an instantly recognisable voice.

From the very first note out of his mouth you know it's him but he is just one third of the impressive Lau.

The trio's latest album has only six tracks but don't think you are being palmed off with a steroid injected EP, there is close to 45 minutes of music in those tunes.

It opens with industrial sounding music which has the beat reminiscent of a piece of machinery similar to Pink Floyd's Welcome To The Machine, with Drever's voice slightly muted in the background.

Martin Green provides the effects and Aidan O'Rourke adds the highlights of his fiddle playing.

The Death of the Dining Car has a much more traditional strand to it, with O'Rourke providing the sawing sound of the fiddle.

This album seems to be much more experimental and shows the trio playing around with a variety of rhythms and combinations of sounds from their impressive library of instruments.

This is a collection that needs more than one hearing and isn't going to be to everyone's taste but it does have enough folk elements to keep it rooted in the traditionaland is a fascinating set of tracks.

The Bell That Never Rang is certainly different to anything around at the moment .

The Bell That Never Rang is out now on Reveal Records.

The April Maze
Sleeping Storm

Sleeping storm is an album packed with evocative music, haunting singing and enigmatic lyrics from duo and married couple Sivan Agam and Todd Mayhew who have a talent for complex and thoroughly sumptuous tunes.

The opener and title track introduces Agam's velvet voice which has a depth like that of June Tabor. The haunting sound of her voice with the drawl of her cello is so atmospheric you are engulfed in their world from the first notes.

With I've Seen The Rain provides a thoroughly indulgent sound with hints of REM.

Mayhew has an impressive voice, full of emotion . Sleeping Storm is a really cool album, Agam and Mayhew have the whole packageand a distinctive sound, what's not to like? Sleeping Storm is out now on MGM records

Rura
Despite The Dark

Scottish five-piece band Rura certainly don't believe on skimping when it comes to an opening track, at more than seven minutes the spooky Dark Reel is the longest on the album.

The eerie windswept effect gives way to the reassuringly Scottish sound of Steven Blake on the pipes.

Bagpipes can be a polarising instrument, it some ways they are the Bovril of the music world but if you wanted to get someone on board then a good start would be Rura. . Despite The Dark is out now.

Fabian Holland
A Day Like Tomorrow

Just by listening to Fabian Holland you would guess he lives on a river boat. His songs are languid, thoughtful and full of the observations you can only get by gliding gently through life espying and noting all that passes before you.

He is a very contemporary and yet an old style folk singer.

His style is stress-busting and, in some ways, almost other-worldly.

This album is about as laid back as you can get without losing consciousness but still carries vocal barbs.

A Day Like Tomorrow is out now on Rooksmere Records.

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Residents hit out at lack of mowing

Resident John Wright, on land off Irvine Road, in Bloxwich – one of the open space fields not being mowed as often

ANGRY residents in Walsall are up in arms after being told a field near their homes will only be cut once a year due to budget cuts.

Families living in the Irvine Road area of Bloxwich use the open space to walk their dogs and as a playing field facility. Residents say the grass is becoming overgrown and at a foot high is making it difficult for them to enjoy the local amenity. But Bloxwich East councillor Kath Phillips said many grass sites were being left uncut because of the council's need to save cash and to attract bees and wildlife.

The council in this financial year needs to save up to £29 million while 200 jobs are being axed. Irvine Road resident John Wright said: "My wife rang up the council to ask why the grass hadn't been cut and someone told her that it was only being cut once a year from now on.

"We have lived here for 43 years and for the whole of that time they have maintained it. It's just behind our house and over the years we have also sometimes run our lawn mower over the bit nearest our garden, but it seems to us to be crazy for them to stop cutting the grass after four decades."

Councillor Phillips said: "We are leaving a lot of grass areas uncut. Firstly, to save money due to budget savings that we have to make as a borough and secondly, there is a need to attract more wildlife such as bees due to the effect of pesticides."

Free replacement of bins policy may return, say chiefs

A FREE bins replacement policy could return to Walsall in the future, council chiefs have said.

The controversial £18.50 charge for residents has been re-introduced after a three month trial of scrapping the costs.

Walsall Council agreed to look at dropping the fee for stolen containers if a police crime reference number is provided.

The charges were stopped in February but have since been brought back into use. It was a shock to residents who believed it was a permanent decision.

Environment chief, councillor Lee Jeavons, said: "This trial was carried out to investigate if the expected demand matched the actual demand and how the system of obtaining a crime number worked with our partners, West Midlands Police. The trial closed just before the elections and the results are due to be evaluated after the council AGM. Results of the trial appear promising and if a labour administration is returned at the annual council, then I am hopeful of a positive outcome for this policy."

Figures showed families across Walsall forked out more than £33,000 in replacing bins between April 2013 and March 2014. There were 1,805 containers bought in that period.

The policy of replacement bin fees was first introduced by the council in 2001 and initially cost £16.50, but increased in 2008 as part of the budget process. It is the latest controversy over bins on the borough after it emerged 38,000 went uncollected last year because of contaminated waste.

The council has a zero-tolerance approach to the amount of wrong items in green bins, such as food, household waste, nappies and black bags. The bins are checked for items and those that fail go uncollected. The 38,000 figure is a fall from 60,726 in 2013.

Ram raid thief gets jail term

A PROLIFIC thief escaped with £7,500 worth of cosmetics after a ram raid on a Black Country chemist, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Drug addict Paul Nightingale and another, unidentified man also caused more than £10,000 damage at Lloyds pharmacy in Bloxwich High Street.

They battered down the closed shutters with a Vauxhall Astra stolen from the car park at Bloxwich Hospital in Reeves Street seven days before the night time burglary on July 28, explained Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting.

Nightingale, who was still on licence from an earlier jail term, was tracked down days later after police recognised him on CCTV.

He had 20 previous convictions. Nightingale from Oak Road, Walsall, pleaded guilty to burglary and aggravated vehicle taking and was jailed for two years and six months by Judge Nicholas Webb.

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Opticians see Norma gets stylish send-off

Norma Bennett is presented with leaving presents by, left, director Nigel Terry and opticians founder Martin Wheeler

STAFF and patients have said a big thank you to a village's longstanding optician business's receptionist Norma Bennett, who is retiring from her role after more than 40 years.

Norma, aged 77, started work at Martin Wheeler Opticians in Pelsall way back in 1974.

To thank her for her years of service she was treated to a dinner at Ye Olde Tollhouse in Willenhall and presented with jewellery and perfume by director Nigel Terry and founder Martin Wheeler.

She said: "It's been incredibly difficult to say goodbye to patients and colleagues but I'm looking forward to spending time with my family."

Nigel added: "Norma has been fantastic to work with and has helped create a wonderful family feel over the years.

"She is popular with the patients and we are sad to see her go. We're really going to miss her, we wish her a lovely retirement."

Warning to bird lovers as canaries targeted

CANARIES are being stolen and sold for up to £40, police officers in the Black Country have warned.

Breeders have been targeted in the region, with at least two in parts of Walsall during the last month. Officers are now urging canary breeders to step up their security, but are also appealing to neighbours to be vigilant.

By Craig Hughes

It comes after an aviary with 30 canaries and chicks was broken into in Little Bloxwich and then thieves targeted an elderly breeder in Leamore four days later.

On the second occasion there were three aviaries smashed into and saw a number of birds stolen.

Sgt Debbie Gallon, from West Midlands Police, said: "Both breeders had security in place but with canaries being advertised for sale online at around £20 each, we'd advise others in the business to consider taking any extra measures they can and would ask neighbours to be on the look-out for any suspicious activity.

"We've spoken to a local breeder's association who say unfortunately, these types of thefts are quite common, with the birds being sold at auction for up to £40 each. It's possible breeders are not reporting them to us and I would urge anyone else who has been targeted to let us know.

"I am sure someone out there knows who is responsible for these thefts in Walsall and I would appeal to anyone with information to call us on 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

Breeder Phillip Gormley, who has bred canaries for more than 20 years, has spoken of his devastation after his aviary was targeted in Little Bloxwich on May 20.

One of the chicks was left for dead after its mother was taken by the thieves. Mr Gormley said: "They're probably being stolen to order and now I've been left with no birds at all."

Don't forget Father's Day 21st June

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Still enjoying those Good Vibrations

Beach Boys, Barclaycard Arena

THE sun may not be shining too much at the moment but I still managed to catch that summer feeling on a night out in Birmingham, which ended on a surprise note.

Heading to the Barclaycard Arena in the landlocked Midlands I turned the clock back and enjoyed views of the waves on a huge screen while listening to some of those great surfing songs.

Yes you guessed it, all the old classics from the Beach Boys. The audience may have had an average of around 55 but they still knew how to party.

All the favourites were there Good Vibrations, California Dreaming, Surfing USA, Wouldn't It Be Nice, Help Me Ronda, to name but a few.

Yes it may be just the two originals the gravelly-voiced Mike Love and keyboard player and singer Bruce Johnson but the voices harmonised well thanks to the rest of the band who could ALL sing. And they paid tribute to the late Carl Wilson as he appeared on a large screen behind them singing God Only Knows

The surprise note? That came with the encore when the special guest was our very own Roy Wood who came on to sing Fire Brigade. What a way to set the night alight.

Sue Attwater

REVIEWS

Ferry still firing after 45 years

Bryan Ferry Symphony Hall, Birmingham

YOU have to hand it to Bryan Ferry after 45 years of performing he is probably more elegant on stage now than he has ever been.

However, as he approaches 70 he is showing signs of slowing down. He didn't stray far from his mic stand throughout the show, except to play the keyboard.

His current stage show, touring on the back of his new album Avonmore, is what you expect from the Lord of Lounge Lizards, populated by class musicians and sophisticated elegant women who are able to sashay across the stage while playing their respective instruments.

Ferry have never had the strongest of voices, his tones are subtle and liquid and at times during the early part of the concert at least he was drowned out by a thumping bass line.

He did however, give a good range of his work from the classics of his Roxy Music days right up to his latest album.

Danny Farragher

Arena packed for Paul McCartney concert

Superstar marathon left all fans amazed

Paul McCartney, Barclaycard Arena

HOW many artists can have four hours of their songs played and virtually everyone in the audience knows every word?

Paul McCartney is the answer. The pre-show build-up on the video screens as his Out There tour reached Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena featured an hour of McCartney's music performed by other artists and then he played for nearly three hours, including two encores and a standing ovation, with no repetition.

There was something for Beatles fans, Eight Days A Week, Back In the USSR and I Saw Her Standing There, Wings fans got High, High, High, Maybe I'm Amazed, which McCartney dedicated to his late wife Linda.

McCartney's voice was on good form. He continually showed his musical virtuosity, playing bass, lead guitar, ukulele and piano and never showed any sign of tiring.

Catch him when you can as he is a true superstar who retains a down-to-earth approach and has a great rapport with fans.

Sue Attwater

It's still a good year for Costello

Elvis Costello Symphony Hall

IT must be at least seven years since I last saw Elvis Costello at the same venue, the impressive Symphony Hall in Birmingham

Had his slightly quirky voice changed in all that time? Not a bit of it.

An army of fans turned out to listen to all those favourites Oliver's Army, Good Year for the Roses, which he sang with his brother Ronan MacManus, Watching the Detectives, Girls Talk, and more.

With his trademark hat and blue suit the singer songwriter, who enjoyed chart success in the 70s with The Attractions, took us through his musical journey, speaking at length about his dad who was a well-known musician.

He also poured scorn on 'talent' programmes like X factor and the miming on,Top of the Pops,

Seven years on and I still find him quite addictive. The show is called Detour and it would be worth making that detour to catch him on his UK tour.

Sue Attwater

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The Mac are back

Fleetwood Mac – Page 25

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Page 25

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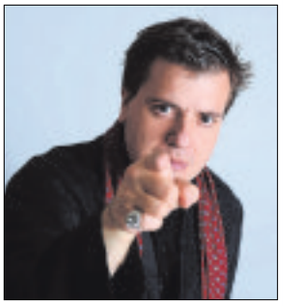

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The Liberated Quilt
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BBC Good Food Show Summer
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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Return of the Mac in classic line-up

John McVie and Stevie Nicks of Fleetwood Mac — expect to hear Dreams, Rhiannon, Songbird and Don't Stop

THE return of Fleetwood Mac will be especially relished by fans in Birmingham as it marks the reunion of the classic Mac line-up with Birmingham-raised Christine McVie back in the band after a 16-year break.

McVie, who sang on Mac favourites Little Lies and You Make Loving Fun, grew up in Bearwood when her father was a music professor and concert violinist who played with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Before her marriage to Fleetwood Mac bassist John McVie, former Birmingham art student Christine Perfect joined Black Country blues band Chicken Shack and sang on their 1969 hit I'd Rather Go Blind.

The McVies will be joined on stage at the Genting Arena on Monday and Tuesday by founder member drummer Mick Fleetwood and the band's American contingent Stevie Nicks and Lindsey Buckingham.

Expect such classic songs at Dreams, Rhiannon and Don't Stop, and the Mac will return for a third gig at NEC venue on July 4. For tickets call 0844 338 8000.

Also coming up is the return Shaun Ryder and Bez, reunited with rapper Kermit, as Black Grape mark the 20th anniversary of debut album It's Great When You're Straight... Yeah at Bilston's Robin 2 on Wednesday, June 10. Call 01902 401211.

Fans raise up John's album

SINGER, showman and actor John Barrowman is back on stage at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Saturday as part of his You Raise Me Up Tour.

Promoting his latest album, the tour brings the American-raised Glaswegian back to his first love as a song and dance man.

Since fighting the Daleks as Captain Jack Harkness in Doctor Who and other alien nasties in it's spin-off show Torchwood, the entertainer also became a family favourite making wishes come true on Tonight's The Night.

Currently he is playing the villain Malcolm Merlyn in hit US superhero show Arrow, which is aired in the UK by Sky.

He is also a DJ with his own Sunday evening show on Magic FM and is a fantasy author having penned three books with his sister Carole E Barrowman, the Hollow Earth series for young adults.

Former Birmingham Hippodrome panto star John said: "I'm so excited to be touring again that I'm choreographing songs and arranging stories in my sleep!"

John's fans funded the album through PledgeMusic's Direct to Fan platform and features new arrangements of his favourite songs, including Mandy, Bridge Over Troubled Water and the title track.

"This album has been a thrilling personal journey for me," added John. "Each lyric, each melody means something special. I can't wait to perform them live for all my fans."

For tickets see www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 345 0600.

Clary will top bill at Brum's pantomime

COMEDIAN Julian Clary, singer Marti Pellow and West End star Lee Mead will take to the stage in Birmingham Hippodrome's pantomime Aladdin this winter.

The family favourite runs at the venue from December 19 until January 31, 2016. Clary, playing the Spirit of the Ring, has established himself as one of the country's most popular panto performers and played Dandini in Cinderella at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre last winter.

Wet Wet Wet frontman Pellow will star as the evil sorcerer Abanazar. In the main role of Aladdin is musical theatre star Mead, who won BBCTV talent show Any Dream Will Do.

Drama, dance, music and comedy

THE Boy In The Striped Pyjamas is at Wolverhampton Grand Tuesday to Saturday. Based on John Boyne's popular novel for young readers about the friendship between the nine-year-old son of a concentration camp commandant and a young Polish Jewish prisoner, it was made into a hit movie.

Also at the Grand, Russell Watson sings tonight, The Bee Gees story is told in Nights On Broadway tomorrow, Spanish dancers of Jaleo Flamenco perform on Saturday, zany Cirque Du Hilarious entertain families on Sunday at 2 and 6pm; and the Hilarity Charity Gala with Greg Davies is on Monday.

Red Lemons band get back together

ONE of the Black Country's favourite bands in the 1980s are planning a reunion concert in their home town of Stourbridge

Just like inspirations The Blues Brothers, The Red Lemon Electric Blues band are getting the band back together — for a special gig at Stourbridge Town Hall on September 11. In their heyday, the soul outfit fronted by Big Jim Merris sold out such venues as JBs and Junction 10 and supported Chuck Berry, Robert Plant and Motown's Edwin Starr. They briefly featured Adrian Chiles on bass and on tambourine a young Suzi Perry, the TV presenter's father Tony managed the group.

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Bon Jovi 17th Oct
Yam Yam Elvis 24th Oct
Frankie Vali 14th Nov
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Rustic rendezvous – The Lyttelton Arms, good for food and drink

Sweets are too tempting to resist

Light and airy – the contemporary decor adds a relaxing and calm ambience

Man food – the big burger and fries

Service with a smile but some Lyttel problems with the food

GOING to the pub for lunch is so much more than a crusty ham cob, a packet of crisps and a pickled onion these days.

It's an adventure and a chance to sample fine foods from foreign lands to transport you from good old Blighty to more exciting, sunnier climes.

Pubs are desperately trying to be different in order to survive and food is where the big bucks come from these days.

Artisan rustic breads, Mediterranean mezze, Nocellara olives all sound so interesting and intriguing that it really makes you want to experiment and try something new.

It's funny but no matter how many dishes can appear on a menu, when I'm dining out with my other half and parents I can pretty much predict who will have what.

By Lisa Williams

So for our culinary experience we decided on one of our favourite destinations – The Lyttelton Arms, Bromsgrove Road, Stourbridge. It has a track record that's pretty good going as busy restaurants go.

It was a return visit as two years had passed since we last sampled its delights.

Inside it looks the same. It's cosy yet contemporary with rural-themed canvases adorning the walls; woodpigeons, and country gents ready to hunt.

The menu style though has changed a little. It's become more eclectic trying to appeal to too many different tastes. For want of a better word 'trendy'. It was bustling with most of the tables occupied on a spring-like Saturday lunchtime.

When my mum had booked she'd requested the softer seating area (it's a pensioner thing, my other half and I weren't so bothered) and normally they comply but on this occasion we were shown to a chunky wooden table with bum-numbing chairs but cushions were dispensed.

The service was impeccable. Not invasive but professional, swift and cheerful. We mulled over the menu with our first round of drinks and the waiter stopped by with a dish of nibbly bits. These were some dried broad beans sprinkled in paprika.

Dunked

Our starters arrived in just the right amount of time. Mum loved her rustic breads, big hunks of wholemeal loaf dunked in oil mixed with seed sprinkle.

Dad's soup on the other hand didn't have quite the same effect. He had gone for one of his favourites the leek and potato. But he found it watery and bland. Our Camembert sharer was delicious. For the mains as I predicted the men went for burgers, mum cod and chips and me?

Well I went the far-out way of battered halloumi.

The burgers were on sturdy wooden boards with buckets of thin fries. The men loved them. The cod and halloumi both came resting on a row of chip slats but the ratio of different food stuffs for each dish was way off.

A massive piece of fish on seven (yep, we counted) twice-cooked thick cut chips with a tablespoon of pea purée and pretty much an entire lemon.

Dinner done. We ventured to the dessert menu and all were delicious.

The bill came in at just shy of £125 for the four of us, probably a little more than we felt the food was actually worth.

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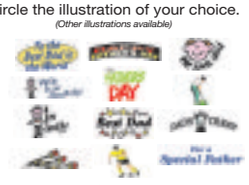

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London has been All Shook Up with the arrival of the largest ever Elvis collection in Europe. *Elvis at the O2: The Exhibition of His Life* tells the story of a music revolution and the lasting impact of his incredible legacy.

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Even the famous pool table Elvis played on with The Beatles will be on display and his wallet containing photos of a young Lisa Marie Presley along with his keys to Graceland.

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CHOICE

John Bishop

The John Bishop Show (BBC1, 9.45pm)
The first edition of the Liverpudlian comedian's series went down a storm, so we have every reason to believe that this one will also be a winner. Once again, Bishop is at the Hackney Empire in central London, and he's promising viewers an evening of top-class entertainment. Topping the bill are comedians Chris Ramsey, Zoe Lyons, Funmbi Omotayo and New Zealander Sam Wills, who is better known as The Boy with Tape on His Face, while musical interludes are provided by Jessie Ware and Striking Matches. Bishop shows off his own fancy footwork while attempting an Irish dance routine with the cast of Riverdance, which has to be seen to be believed – just don't give up the day job, John.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Box. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Athletics. **2.00** The Olympic Journey: Born Winners. Gabby Logan investigates whether a person's DNA decides if they will be a winner. (R) **2.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.30** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **4.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Live Formula 1: The Canadian Grand Prix – Qualifying. Action from the battle for pole position (Start-time 6.00pm).

7.15 BBC News.

7.25 Regional Programme.

7.35 Now You See It. The best and worst of the magic world, featuring a tortoise performing the classic cup and ball trick and a magician who disappears into a photocopier. Narrated by Mel Giedroyc.

8.05 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. The first couple to win two rounds get to play for £50,000 and each time the champions defeat a new set of opponents their winnings mount up. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

8.55 Casualty. A patient's family crisis jeopardises Cal and Ethan's plan to attend a clinical trial in Finland and Dylan is crestfallen when Connie takes back the role of clinical lead.

9.45 The John Bishop Show. An evening of entertainment at the Hackney Empire theatre in London, including performances by Jessie Ware, Striking Matches, Chris Ramsey and Funmbi Omotayo.

10.30 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.50 Not Going Out. Lucy has her handbag stolen by a gang of muggers right under Lee's nose, so he sets out to prove he is not a total wimp. Sitcom, starring Lee Mack and Sally Bretton. (R)

11.20 Film: Tropic Thunder. (2008) The cast of a Vietnam War movie unknowingly wanders into the middle of a real-life conflict. Comedy, directed by and starring Ben Stiller, with Jack Black.

12.55 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Animal Park. (R) **7.00 Film:** A Tale of Two Cities. (1958) **8.55 Film:** Firecreek. (1968) **10.35** James Stewart: Talking Pictures. (R) **11.25 Film:** The Man Who Knew Too Much. (1956) **1.20** Formula 1: The Canadian Grand Prix – Second Practice. (R) **2.55** Live Formula 1: The Canadian Grand Prix – Third Practice. Further action from the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal. **4.00** F1 Rewind: Senna. **5.00** Antiques Road Trip. (R)

6.00 Gardeners' World. Carol Klein observes one of 400 gardens preparing to open to the public as part of the National Gardens Scheme, while a beekeeper arrives with a swarm for Monty Don's new hive. (R)

6.30 Flog It! Thomas Plant and Michael Baggott value items in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, including a 200-year-old teapot and costume jewellery encrusted with real diamonds. Paul Martin vists a 400-year-old house where even the cobwebs are being preserved for future generations. (R)

7.30 Edwardian Farm. It is October and Alex Langlands, Peter Ginn and Ruth Goodman take on new enterprises – market gardening, egg production, raising beef cattle and food preservation – using only Edwardian tools and materials. The team members also create cider on an industrial scale, bring a bull to the farm, launch a chicken business and celebrate Halloween – early 20th-century style. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. A major decides Corporal Jones is too old to be in the Home Guard, asking him to prove his worth by completing an assault course. (R)

9.00 Pinewood: 80 Years of Movie Magic. Jonathan Ross gains unprecedented access to the iconic British film studio, meeting Joan Collins and Barbara Windsor to discuss their experiences on set. The site in Buckinghamshire was transformed into a studio during the 1930s and became home to the James Bond, Harry Potter, Superman and Carry On film series, and Ross goes behind the scenes to tackle some daring and spectacular stunts of his own.

10.30 Film: My Week with Marilyn. (2011) Fact-based drama, with Michelle Williams.

12.05 The Many Faces of Sid James. (R) **1.05 Film:** Quatermass 2. (1957) **2.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** Doc Martin. (R) **1.30** Live French Open Tennis. The women's singles final from Roland Garros. **5.30** Off Their Rockers. (R)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.10 ITV News; Weather.

6.25 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, including a birthday girl whose hair catches fire. (R)

7.00 Live UEFA Champions League. Juventus v Barcelona (Kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of the showpiece game from the Olympiastadion in Berlin, where two giants of Italian and Spanish football battle it out. Juve are appearing in their first European Cup final for 12 years – on that occasion they were defeated by rivals AC Milan on penalties at Old Trafford – while Barca last appeared at this stage in 2011, when they overcame Manchester United at Wembley to lift the trophy for the fourth time. Should the Catalan club have triumphed over Athletic Bilbao in the Copa del Rey final prior to this contest, then victory here for either club will see them record an historic treble, having both won their domestic league and Juve claimed the Coppa Italia with victory over Lazio. Presented by Mark Pougatch, with commentary by Clive Tyldesley and Andy Townsend. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.

10.20 ITV News; Weather.

10.35 Play to the Whistle – Extra Time. Holly Willoughby presents a compilation of clips from the sports-based comedy panel show, in which two teams go head to head in quizzes and physical games. Last in the series.

11.15 UEFA Champions League: Extra Time. Juventus v Barcelona.

12.00 The Chase. (R) **12.55** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Snowdonia Slateman Triathlon. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** Derby Day Morning Line. **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** The Derby: Channel 4 Racing from Epsom. Including the 4.30 Investec Derby (1m 4f). **5.00** Channel 4 News. **5.20** Couples Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.05 Benchmark. Game show in which contestants decide how 10 people answered a series of tricky numerical questions. Hosted by Paddy McGuinness. (R)

7.00 Celebrity Fifteen to One. Jason Manford, Germaine Greer and Jimmy Carr are among the 15 well-known faces competing to win a large cash prize for charity, nominating each other to answer questions until only the winner is left standing. Notoriously tough general knowledge quiz, hosted by Adam Hills. (R)

8.00 The Restoration Man. Alison and Matthew Grey, two designers from London with young children, are looking for a new place to live within commuting distance of the city. The couple plan to turn a pumping station into a design haven, but with costs mounting, there's a danger they will have to refinance to finish the build. Architect George Clarke follows their progress. (R)

9.00 Film: Anna Karenina. (2012) Premiere. The wife of a government official travels to Moscow to save her brother's marriage. Her journey leads to an encounter with a married cavalry officer, with whom she is instantly smitten, and when he follows her home, a passionate affair develops that scandalises the town and drives her husband to desperate ends. Period drama based on Leo Tolstoy's novel, starring Keira Knightley.

11.35 Film: The Brave One. (2007) A radio talk-show host descends into a spiral of violence after taking the law into her own hands to avenge her fiance's murder. Thriller, starring Jodie Foster.

1.50 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **2.40** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **3.40** Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Access. **10.40** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **11.40** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **12.40** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **1.40 Film:** Columbo: Old Fashioned Murder. (1976) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.10** Inside Manchester's Midland Hotel. (R) **4.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **5.10** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R)

6.10 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. A couple whose retirement was ruined by an 8ft wall built by their neighbour, plus a mother and daughter fed up with living opposite a flat full of rabbits. (R)

7.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Enforcement agents are faced with the difficult job of evicting a woman with two children – a task that takes a turn for the worse when her ex-partner makes an appearance. (R)

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. Comedians Matt Richardson and Katy Brand present another selection of the most popular videos featuring dogs, while pet behaviourist Professor Peter Neville provides the scientific background. Featuring Bizkit's sleepwalking antics, which have notched up almost 33 million hits on YouTube, and footage of Norman the French sheepdog riding scooters, skateboards and bikes. (R)

9.00 Big Brother. Friday's highlights, including housemates' reactions to the latest eviction, revealing how the departure has affected the remaining contestants.

10.00 The Incredible Hulk Woman: Extraordinary People. Documentary following a mother-of-three who has rare neurological condition stiff-person syndrome, which causes severe muscle spasms in the arms and legs. (R)

10.55 Kellie Maloney: No Going Back. Documentary following the boxing promoter as she embarked on a sex change, from her appearance on Celebrity Big Brother through to her final full gender-reassignment surgery. (R)

11.55 Access. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** Furious & Funny: Caught on Camera. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Top Gear **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride **9.00** Live at the Apollo **9.30** Family Guy **10.35** Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. Canada v China (Kick-off 11.00pm). **1.00** Family Guy **1.25** Murder in Successville **1.55** Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment **2.25** Russell Howard's Good News **2.55** Live at the Apollo **3.25** Murder in Successville **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Fossil Wonderlands: Nature's Hidden Treasures **8.00** Wild Arabia **9.00** 1864 **10.55** TOTP2: Summertime Special **11.55** Top of the Pops: 1980 **12.35** Guitar Heroes at the BBC **1.35** Wild Arabia **2.35** Metamorphosis – The Science of Change **3.35** Close

ITV2

11.30 Britain's Got More Talent: Simon's Top Ten Moments **12.30 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **2.15** Mr Bean **3.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.50 Film:** Kangaroo Jack (2003) **5.35 Film:** Cats & Dogs (2001) **7.25 Film:** The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) **10.00 Film:** 2 Fast 2 Furious (2003) **12.10 Film:** Red Dragon (2002) **2.25** Life's Funniest Moments **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

1.00 Lewis **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** A Touch of Frost **1.10** Wire in the Blood **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.55 BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights **1.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Moscow ePrix. **3.30** Minder **4.30** Storage Wars **4.55** Football's Greatest: Zinedine Zidane **5.15** Live French Open Tennis. The men's doubles final. **7.00** TT 2015 **10.00 Film:** You Only Live Twice (1967) **12.25** River Monsters **1.30** TT 2015 **2.30** Nitro Circus **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.00 Baby Daddy **1.00** The Goldbergs **2.00** How I Met Your Mother **3.00 Film:** Clueless (1995) **5.00** Made in Chelsea **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Battle: Los Angeles (2011) **11.20** Gogglebox **1.25** Rude Tube **2.30** 2 Broke Girls **2.55** How I Met Your Mother **3.35** Rules of Engagement **4.25** New Girl

Film4

11.00 Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (1953) **1.00** Millions (2004) **3.05** A Monster in Paris (2011) **4.45** Biggles (1986) **6.30** Star Trek (2009) **9.00** The Sitter (2011) **10.40** Insidious (2010) **12.45** A Prophet (2009) **3.55** Close

CHOICE

Jack Dee

Channel 4's Comedy Gala 2015
(Channel 4, 9pm)
In 1852, the Hospital for Sick Children was founded. It had just 10 beds, but thanks to the patronage of such figures as Queen Victoria and Charles Dickens, it quickly grew and soon Great Ormond Street Hospital, as it is now known, became a world-renowned centre for the treatment of sick children. Dickens was one of its first fundraisers, a role many famous personalities have adopted over the decades. The latest batch includes Aisling Bea, Alan Carr, Jack Dee, Jason Byrne, Jon Richardson, Josh Widdicombe, Trevor Noah, Michael McIntyre, Rich Hall and Warwick Davis, who are among those giving up their time to help raise cash via this annual concert at London's O2 Arena.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.00** Flog It! (R) **2.40** The Truth About Your Teeth. (R) **3.40** Points of View. **3.55** Songs of Praise. **4.30** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **5.00** Countryfile.

6.00 BBC News.

6.15 Regional Programme.

6.25 Live Formula 1: The Canadian Grand Prix. Suzi Perry introduces coverage of the seventh round of the season at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal (Start-time 7.00pm). World champion Lewis Hamilton is bidding to win this race for the fourth time, which would put him second on the all-time list of victors in Canada behind Michael Schumacher. Hamilton will be looking to get over the disappointment of his third-place finish in Monaco last time out, when what seemed like certain victory slipped through his grasp due to a tactical error by his team. Commentary by Ben Edwards and David Coulthard.

9.00 Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell. Strange develops a growing fascination with the magic of the Raven King, an obsession which drives a wedge between him and Norrell, who becomes determined to stop him resurrecting the dark powers of ancient times. Strange tries to use his magic to cure King George III of his madness, but in doing so, he begins to suspect something terrible is lurking unseen in the shadows. Drawlight is caught selling magical secrets, while the Gentleman seeks Stephen's aid in putting a stop to Strange's meddling.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Live at the Apollo. Jack Whitehall hosts an evening of stand-up at the Apollo in Hammersmith, London, introducing routines by Katherine Ryan and Rich Hall. (R)

11.15 Film: Blades of Glory. (2007) Rival figure skaters bury the hatchet after they discover a loophole enabling them to compete in the world championships as a same-sex pair. Comedy, with Will Ferrell.

12.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.50 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The Big Allotment Challenge. (R) **7.00** Countryfile. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** Greatest Gardens. **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** The Box. (R) **11.30** The Box. (R) **12.00** Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) **12.30** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.30** Live Athletics. The Sainsbury's Birmingham Grand Prix. **5.20** Hotel India. (R)

6.20 Film: Shall We Dance? (2004) A bored workaholic lawyer becomes fixated with a beautiful dance teacher and enrols in her class. When she flatly rejects his advances, he decides to concentrate on perfecting his footwork – but keeps the new hobby a secret, making his wife very suspicious about the amount of time he is spending away from home. Romantic comedy, starring Richard Gere. Edited for daytime broadcast.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the experts return to Richmond Park in west London, where members of the public gather at White Lodge, home of the Royal Ballet School, to find out the worth of various antiques and collectibles. Items include a table said to be made of timber from Old London Bridge, a Maori feather box, a patriotic musical chamber pot and an artist's brush pot bought in a junk shop more than 50 years ago. (R)

9.00 Armada – 12 Days to Save England. Dan Snow concludes the three-part drama-documentary exploring the battle against the Spanish Armada. The final episode reveals the circumstances that led to the defeat of the invasion force, drawing on recently rediscovered documents, and also explores how victory enhanced Elizabeth I's reputation as a world leader – while many of the sailors who fought in the battle died of starvation and disease. Last in the series.

10.00 Protecting Our Foster Kids. New series. A year in the life of Dorset County Council's fostering service. A teenager hopes to settle down with a new family, but her foster parents face some hard choices.

11.00 Film: A Single Man. (2009)

12.30 Formula 1: The Canadian Grand Prix – Highlights. **1.30** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.30** Holby City. (R) **3.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.25** Long Lost Family. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Live International Football. Republic of Ireland v England (Kick-off 1.00pm). **3.10** Live French Open Tennis. The men's singles final.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the revival of the game show in which contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. (R)

7.15 Celebrity Squares. Warwick Davis hosts the quiz, with guests Sue Perkins, Keith Duffy, Sara Pascoe, Melanie Sykes, Ben Miller, Matt Richardson and Trevor Noah. Last in the series.

8.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium. Jack Whitehall introduces the variety show, featuring Simply Red, Leona Lewis, Jess Glynne, Sara Pascoe and Britain's Got Talent finalist Jack Carroll. Last in the series.

9.00 Home Fires. Frances takes in an evacuee from Liverpool, who is not what she expected. Erica is forced to face the consequences of her actions, while Miriam writes letters to soldiers on the front line that cause more harm than good. Laura and Richard's secret affair is jeopardised when someone sees them together, Teresa receives devastating news, and Claire must decide whether or not to stand by Spencer.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 International Football Highlights. Republic of Ireland v England. Action from the friendly encounter at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin, the first meeting between the sides in Ireland for 20 years.

11.20 Vicious. Violet panics when her wealthy sister announces a visit, so she and her friends begin an elaborate plan to save her from humiliation. (R)

11.50 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Donny Osmond. (R)

12.50 Jackpot247. **2.30** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.20** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** British GT. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30 Film:** We Bought a Zoo. (2011) Premiere. Fact-based comedy drama, starring Matt Damon. **3.55 Film:** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days. (2012) **5.50** Channel 4 News.

6.10 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. A man wants a holiday home in Wales, near to his rowing club, while his wife would prefer France's Cote d'Azur. Laura Hamilton and Adrian Simpson help them decide.

7.05 Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer guide prospective buyers in the popular commuter county of Kent, where homes are snapped up quickly due to their proximity to London. (R)

8.00 For the Love of Cars. Philip Glenister and Ant Anstead look back over the hard work that has gone into restoring the vehicles featured in this series as a number of them are put up for sale. They attend a car auction to pick up some tips on these high-stakes events, and catch up with some of the motorists featured in the first series, who offer their advice on making a profit from a sale. Last in the series.

9.00 Channel 4's Comedy Gala 2015. The annual stand-up comedy concert in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity returns for a sixth year, with a host of stars appearing at London's O2 arena. Featuring Aisling Bea, Alan Carr, Jack Dee, Jason Byrne, Jon Richardson, Josh Widdicombe, Katherine Ryan, Kevin Bridges, Michael McIntyre, Paul Chowdhry, Rich Hall, Rob Beckett, Romesh Ranganathan, Russell Kane, Sara Pascoe, Sean Lock, Seann Walsh, Shappi Khorsandi, Trevor Noah and Warwick Davis.

11.35 Lee Mack Live. The comedian's live show, performed at London's Bloomsbury Theatre, in which he touches on bizarre subjects, from pasty marketing to grandmothers snorting a powdered dessert. (R)

12.40 Film: Get Him to the Greek. (2010) **2.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** River Cottage Bites. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.15** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.15** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.15** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.25** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **8.55** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.05** LazyTown. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Access. **10.40** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.10** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **12.10** Benefit House: Me & My 26 Kids. (R) **1.10** Benefits, Babies and Jail. (R) **2.10** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R) **3.10** My Big Xmas Benefits Blow-Out. (R) **4.10 Film:** Open Season 3. (2010) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Matthew J Munn. **5.40 Film:** The Haunted Mansion. (2003) Comedy, starring Eddie Murphy.

7.15 Film: The Wedding Date. (2005) A single woman is horrified by the thought of attending her sister's wedding alone, a task made all the more daunting by the presence of her ex-fiance. Taking the bull by the horns, she hires a male escort for the occasion – but her decision has unexpected results. Romantic comedy, starring Debra Messing, Jack Davenport, Amy Adams, Dermot Mulroney and Sarah Parish.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother in the aftermath of the recent eviction. Featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary-room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 Film: Dark Skies. (2013) Premiere. A suburban American home attracts the attention of alien invaders, who wage a campaign of terror against its residents. Sci-fi horror, with Keri Russell and Josh Hamilton.

11.50 Film: Crank: High Voltage. (2009) A hitman pursues a mobster who took his heart and replaced it with a machine that requires constant charging up. Action thriller sequel, starring Jason Statham.

1.35 SuperCasino. **3.10** Inside Manchester's Midland Hotel. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **7.30** Top Gear **8.30** Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. Germany v Ivory Coast (Kick-off 9.00pm). **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad! **12.05** Family Guy **12.30** Festivals, Sex & Suspicious Parents **1.30** Murder in Successville **2.00** Truly Madly Wembley **3.00** Where Am I Sleeping Tonight? **3.55** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Egypt's Lost Queens **8.00** Julie Walters in Conversation with Richard E Grant **9.00 Film:** Billy Elliot (2000) **10.45** Timeshift: 1960 – The Year of the North **11.45** Top of the Pops: 1980 – Big Hits **12.45** I'm a Popstar **1.45** The Old Grey Whistle Test: 70s Gold **3.15** Close

ITV2
12.05 Take Me Out **1.20** Take Me Out – The Gossip **2.05** Mr Bean **2.45 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **4.30 Film:** Jurassic Park III (2001) **6.15 Film:** The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) **9.00** Love Island: Live **10.30 Film:** Couples Retreat (2009) **12.50** Mom **1.40** Fake Reaction **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.00 Lewis **9.00** The One and Only Cilla Black **10.30** Lewis **12.40 Film:** The Breakfast Club (1985) **2.20** Doctor in the House **3.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.15** Emmerdale

ITV4
11.15 Live British Touring Car Championship. Round four from Oulton Park. **1.30** Live French Open Tennis. The men's singles final. **3.15** Live British Touring Car Championship. Round four from Oulton Park. **6.30** Storage Wars **7.00** Cycling **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** TT 2015 **10.00** Motorsport UK Extra **11.30 Film:** Road (2014) **1.45** TT 2015 **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Made in Chelsea **1.35** Melissa & Joey **2.30** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** The Simpsons Movie (2007) **9.45** Gogglebox **11.55** Rude Tube **12.55** Virtually Famous **1.45** Tattoos After Dark **2.40** New Girl **3.25** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Titanic (1953) **1.00** Explorers (1985) **3.15** Marley and Me (2008) **5.35** Australia (2008) **9.00** Bridesmaids (2011) Comedy, starring Kristen Wiig. **11.30** The Station Agent (2003) **1.15** Rust and Bone (2012) **3.45** Close

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Carry On Screaming, ITV, 11.40pm
A sinister boffin, his sultry sister and two genetic misfits kidnap innocent women from spooky Hocomb Woods and turn them into mannequins – but two dim-witted detectives look set to throw a spanner in the works. Comedy horror, starring Kenneth Williams an Fenella Fielding. (1966)

TUESDAY
Reign of Fire, BBC1, 11.20pm
In the aftermath of decades of apocalyptic attacks by dragons, small pockets of survivors try to stave off the scaly fire-breathers. However, the meagre remains of the world's heavy artillery are not enough to stop them, so a small group of people joins forces with a zealous dragon slayer in a final bid to save the world from destruction. Fantasy adventure, with Christian Bale and Matthew McConaughey. (2001)

Total Recall, Friday, ITV, 11.10pm

WEDNESDAY
Fatal Friends, Channel 5, 3.10pm
Quiet teenage musician Ashley is delighted when she befriends new student Michelle, until the girl shows worrying signs of being possessive. When a strange series of events threatens to disrupt Ashley's family, school life and a budding relationship, she realises she has to put a stop to Michelle's destructive behaviour. Thriller, starring Kristen Prout. (2015)

THURSDAY
Smoke Screen, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. A reporter becomes involved in a murder investigation when she wakes up next to a corpse and cannot remember a thing about the night before. Drama, with Jaime Pressly. (2010)

FRIDAY
Total Recall, ITV, 11.10pm
A construction worker pays to have fake memories of a dream holiday implanted into his brain, but discovers his mind has already been tampered with – apparently to erase his true identity as a secret agent from a colony on Mars. He journeys to the planet in search of the truth, but is drawn into a conflict between the tyrannical ruler and a rebel faction. Paul Verhoeven's sci-fi thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. (1990)

Going behind the scenes at a legendary venue

Hollywood may dominate our movie-going habits, but the British film industry has a lot to shout about. The BBC recently patted its own film-making arm on the back when it reached its 25th anniversary, and now it's turning its attention to the entire country's cinematic output – and it isn't exactly insubstantial.

"British film-making has always been defined by exceptional talents and maverick voices, championing the unique over the uniform," says Jonty Claypole, director of BBC Arts. "Working in close partnership with the BFI, benefitting from their insight and expertise, this ambitious season crosses television, radio, online and cinema screens."

Heather Stewart, Creative Director of the BFI adds: "It's a thrill to work alongside our partners at the BBC to bring Britain's illustrious big screen heritage to the UK's small screens, and highlight some of British cinema's greatest achievements to the widest possible audience."

The Genius of British Cinema season really gets going today, with the 1958 version of A Tale of Two Cities, starring Dirk Bogarde, kicking things off at 7am.

Then, at 9pm, comes Pinewood: 80 Years of Movie Magic, a feature-length documentary about the country's most famous studio.

It was founded in 1935 by J Arthur Rank, who had made his fortune from milling flour and had originally got into film-making as a way of promoting his Methodist beliefs. He joined forces with three other investors to turn Heatherden Hall and its surrounding land near Iver Heath in Buckinghamshire into a studio that would rival anything in Hollywood.

Rank was, however, the driving force behind the project, and branched out into distribution and exhibition so that his movies would never be swamped by American products.

During the 1940s and 1960s, the Rank Organisation was behind some of the most memorable British films ever made, including A Matter of Life and Death, Henry V, Brief Encounter and Great Expectations.

Rank himself remains an important figure, so much so that the house in which he was born in Hull recently underwent a refurbishment and was reopened with much pomp and ceremony, including a muscleman with a gong – which was the symbol of his company.

He may have backed many films over the years, but arguably Rank's greatest creation was Pinewood itself. It's still going strong and is the home of Harry Potter and James Bond, while the forthcoming Star Wars sequels were also shot there.

In this programme, Ross meets some of the stars who have worked at Pinewood, including Barbara Windsor and Joan Collins, and even watches one of John Mills' finest films alongside his daughter, Hayley, who made Whistle Down the Wind there as a child star in the 1960s.

Producer and director Matthew Vaughn shares his memories of making Kick-Ass and Kingsman: The Secret Service (both co-written with Ross' wife, Jane Goldman), and discusses why the place is so important to makers of blockbusters.

Pinewood: 80 Years of Movie Magic, Saturday, BBC2, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The Met
BBC1, 9pm
British society is forever evolving, and at the moment, of all the jobs in the public sector, the police force is arguably going through the biggest changes. This new fly-on-the-wall series takes an in-depth look at how the Metropolitan Police Service works, as viewers are taken behind the scenes of one of the country's most important institutions. The six-part show will hopefully illustrate the scale and complexity of policing London on a day-to-day basis, shining a light on how the Met works from root to branch – from Commissioner of Police Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe himself, down to the bobby on the beat. There's a look at everything from management board meetings to recruits being thrown in at the deep end on their first day. And the programme makers have promised not to shy away from the issues, and get to the heart of what it's like to be a policeman in modern Britain.

TUESDAY
Running The Shop
Channel 4, 8pm
New series. In this business-based challenge series, entrepreneur Hilary Devey persuades bosses from companies around Britain to leave their business for three weeks and let the staff take over. The first episode centres on family owned DIY homestore Taskers in Aintree. John Tasker leaves his staff £30,000 of his own money to improve the business as he steps down for a few days. However, it remains to be seen whether cashiers Tom and Debs can win over a whole new market, or if a clever advertising idea will bring in much-needed customers.

WEDNESDAY
DIY SOS: The Big Build
BBC1, 8pm
Nick Knowles and his crack team of builders, plasterers and electricians come to the aid of Frank and Christine Burrows in Wigan. In 2012, their 35-year-old son Mark was paralysed as the result of an unprovoked attack that left him with severe brain damage. Mark now needs constant care, but the Burrows' family home is not yet fit for purpose, so Frank and Christine have been forced to take their son to a care home 15 miles away. With the help of designer Laurence Llewelyn Bowen, Nick's experts set about constructing a self-contained apartment alongside the Burrows' two-bedroom bungalow, which will provide Nick with the space, independence and security he needs to return home.

Running the Shop, Tuesday, Channel 4, 8pm

The Interceptor
BBC1, 9pm
Ash, a talented customs agent with a troubled past, is head-hunted to join UNIT, an elite team of law enforcers that operates beyond the jurisdiction of the police. UNIT's mission is to bring justice to the serious career criminals who have become accustomed to evading the full force of the law, a goal that instantly appeals to Ash, who has a few scores to settle with certain high-ranking members of the underworld. Crime drama, starring O-T Fagbenle.

THURSDAY
Stonemouth
BBC2, 9pm
Fans of cult novels were devastated when Iain Banks, author of The Crow Road and The Wasp Factory, died in 2013, but his work continues to find a new audience – and this two-part romantic mystery, adapted from his bestseller of the same name, should attract a few more converts. Christian Cooke heads the cast as Stewart Gilmour, who was run out of his hometown of Stonemouth by his girlfriend Ellie's criminal family, the Murstons. Now two years on, he's returning for his best friend Callum's funeral, and Don Murston (Peter Mullan) makes it clear that he's still not welcome. Stewart doesn't want to leave until he gets to the bottom of Callum's apparent suicide, but as he digs deeper he uncovers some unsettling secrets and lies.

FRIDAY
TFI Friday
Channel 4, 9pm
Remember the heady, Brit Pop-soaked days of the mid-to-late 1990s? Then prepare to feel very nostalgic indeed, as the era's must-see TV show, TFI Friday, returns for an anniversary special. Okay, so the anniversary in question is its 19th – the series actually started in 1996 – but that only fits in with the anarchic TFI vibe. Chris Evans is back as the presenter, along with all the old gang, including Danny Baker and Will Macdonald.

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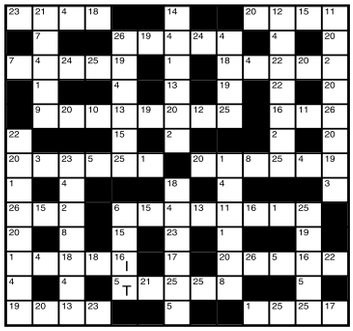
STOCK CHANGING DAILY RING FOR DETAILS. OPEN 7 DAYS.
PART EXCHANGES WELCOME

BRAIN GYM No.328

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

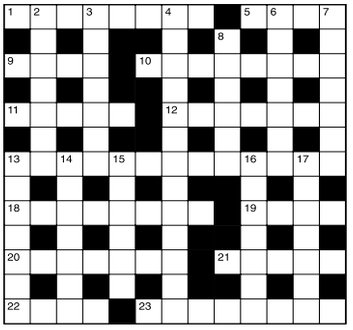


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
U	S	D	Y	Z	M	E	V	G	T	N	H	F
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
C	L	P	J	W	R	A	B	X	K	Q	O	I

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. The best sort of piano? (8)
5. A word from a clever book on grammar (4)
9. Complacent about receding gums? (4)
10. From where the sun rises? (8)
11. Priest shortly unwell on seeing adornment (5)
12. Where soldiers heckle? (7)
13. Confidential information catches shy pair out in minister's office (13)
18. Insinuation due to no mix-up at tavern (8)
19. Clever putting of bulkhead in beer (4)
20. Let part talk childishly (7)
21. Try out production of goods on the river (5)
22. Nora changes to a mixed reddish colour (4)
23. Cheeky student got little devil to replace saint (8)

Down

2. Compunction about code (7)
3. Ring leg of fuss-pot (7)
4. Top acting directors smile on the right side of ship (9,4)
6. It's humbug to look at the laundry! (7)
7. Go to pieces at the end of term (5,2)
8. With justice put the magical creature about fifty (6)
13. Captain given certain rope? (7)
14. Is able to say childish bye-bye in religious composition (7)
15. Yet letters record these occurrences (6)
16. With a blemish instead (7)
17. Unfriendly act causes giddy spasm (3-4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Supplement (8)
5. Chances (4)
9. Release (4)
10. A murderer (8)
11. Rustic (5)
12. Gesticulation (7)
13. Unpleasant (13)
18. Germanic (8)
19. Ill (4)
20. Loss of memory (7)
21. Lid (5)
22. Inform (4)
23. Harsh (8)

Down

2. Confuse (7)
3. Raise (7)
4. Not important (13)
6. Agitate (7)
7. Genuine (7)
8. Fruit (6)
13. Pariah (7)
14. Diary (7)
15. Think fit (6)
16. Decamp (7)
17. Reading desk (7)

Sudoku

1			6		5			3
	7						6	
		6		7		1		
	2		3		9		4	
7				6	4			2
	4		7		2		5	
		1		3		2		7
	6	7					3	
5			4		7			9

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	1	4	3	5	7	6	8	9
6	5	9	4	2	8	3	1	7
7	3	8	6	9	1	4	5	2
8	2	3	9	6	4	5	7	1
4	9	6	7	1	5	2	3	8
5	7	1	2	8	3	9	4	6
1	8	2	5	4	6	7	9	3
9	4	7	8	3	2	1	6	5
3	6	5	1	7	9	8	2	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Dawdle; 4 Shower; 9 Call the police; 10 Evident; 11 Anele; 12 Again; 14 Psalm; 18 Lotto; 19 Relapse; 21 Inclined plane; 22 Desist; 23 Plates. Down: 1 Docked; 2 Walking sticks; 3 Lathe; 5 Hookahs; 6 White elephant; 7 Reeled; 8 Heats; 13 Ironies; 15 Allied; 16 Creel; 17 Sewers; 20 Lapel. QUICK - Across: 1 Stifle; 4 Favour; 9 Imperiousness; 10 Harness; 11 Ensue; 12 Hurry; 14 Essay; 18 Ambit; 19 Trident; 21 Embarrassment; 22 Steady; 23 Fettle. Down: 1 Slight; 2 Imperturbable; 3 Large; 5 Answers; 6 Overstatement; 7 Roster; 8 House; 13 Retired; 15 Caress; 16 Steam; 17 Statue; 20 Issue.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. What does the abbreviation ASLEF stand for?
2. Which war lasted from 1853-56?
3. In which year did Louis Bleriot cross the English Channel?
4. Which vegetable's scientific name is Brassica napobrassica?
5. TAP is the airline of which country?
6. What is the more common name of Schubertís Symphony No. 8 in B Minor?
7. What is the middle name of Ronald Reagan?
8. What was the name of the dog that went into space in 1957?
9. In architecture, what is a campanile?
10. On which river does Berlin stand?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 The fear of heights; 2 Sir Anthony Hopkins; 3 Bacchus; 4 Beethoven; 5 The Mekon; 6 Na; 7 Victoria; 8 1967; 9 Judges; 10 Boston.

Niner: ARCHDUKES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

62781226 gives an animal,
4758 gives a second animal,
379 gives a third animal.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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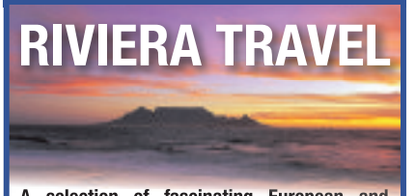

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Large detached house with restored period features

HAVING a number of restored original features tastefully blended with modern appointments, this unique and imposing four-bedroomed detached house in Ravenscroft Road, Willenhall has appealing accommodation throughout. It is for sale through L&S Prestige at £280,000.

It has two concrete driveways, an entrance porch and hall, a sitting room, lounge/diner with gas fire with a marble hearth and patio doors, a kitchen, a pantry and laminate flooring, utility room, an inner hall, a WC, four bedrooms, a bathroom with a cast iron claw foot bath with electric shower over, separate WC and notable gardens. Call L&S Prestige on 01902 606595 or visit the website at www.prestige-estatesuk.com

Improved and spacious home priced £250,000

HAVING ample off-street parking, this spacious well-presented traditional-style home in Sutton Road, Walsall has been much improved

In a convenient location, it is for sale through Edwards Moore at £250,000.

With gas central heating and uPVC attractive hardwood-effect double glazing, the accommodation comprises a spacious reception hall, an impressive through lounge with an attractive wood burning stove on a black tiled hearth with access to a conservatory.

There is also a good sized kitchen, an appealing sitting room, three excellent bedrooms, a spacious and attractively fitted bathroom with a four piece suite, private rear garden and a fore garden with parking. For further information contact Edwards Moore by calling 01922 615222 or visit www.edwardsmoore.co.uk

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01902 606 595 L&S PRESTIGE ESTATES

BEATON CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Lounge & Family Bathroom. Potential To Convert To Three Beds. D/G. Warm Air Heating. Front And Rear Gardens. Great BTL Or FTB.
£77,500

BENTLEY

CORNWALL PLACE, WALSALL
Two Bed Ground Floor Flat. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen & Shower Room. D/G. G/C/H. Paved Fore Garden & Private Garden To Rear With Brick Built Outhouse.
OIRO £85,000

DARLASTON

PERRY STREET, WEDNESBURY
Three Bedroom Mid Terrace. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen And Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Enclosed Rear Garden. MUST VIEW!
£92,500

SHORT HEATH

MILL LANE, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Detached Bungalow With One Bed Annex. Comprises Of Hall, Lounge/ Diner, Kitchen, Family Bathroom. The Annex Comprises Of Lounge, Kitchen/Diner & Bedroom With En-Suite Shower Room.
£270,000

LISTER STREET, WILLENHALL
Three Bed End Town House. Comprises Of Porch, Inner Hall, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Generous Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Sun Room & Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. O/R/P To The Fore & Enclosed Garden To Rear.
£124,995

SUMMER HAYES

BRAEMAR CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Open Plan Lounge/ Kitchen/Diner And Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Gardens To Both Front & Rear. Extensive Driveway Parking To The Front/Side.
O.I.R.O £145,000

SHORT HEATH

BLOXWICH RD NTH, W'HALL
Detached Three Bed Having Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge With Inglenook Fireplace, Separate Sitting Room, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Galleried Landing, Family Bathroom, Garage, D/Glazing, C/ Heating.
£270,000

HADLEY HEATH

PACKWOOD CLOSE, W'HALL
One Bed Town House. Comprises Of Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom And Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Front Garden, Off Road Parking Area To Side & Separate Enclosed Garden To The Rear.
£82,000

BENTLEY

WESTERN AVE, WALSALL
Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge, Inner Hall, Kitchen, Rear Porch & Fitted Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Front & Rear Gardens. EXCELLENT BTL OR FTB!
£85,000

NEW INVENTION

ASTORIA GDNS, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Porch, Entrance Hall, Guest W.C, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/ Diner And Shower Room. D/G. G/C/H. Gardens To Front And Rear As Well As An Off Road Parking Area. Great FTB or BTL.
£88,500

LISTER STREET, WILLENHALL
Immaculate Two Bed Ground Floor Apartment. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, D/G & E/H. Outside There Is A Secure Gated Parking Space And Garage. MUST VIEW!
£89,995

DARLASTON

BOOTH STREET, WEDNESBURY
Two Bedroom Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner And Family Bathroom. G/C/H. Enclosed Rear Garden. Two Allocated Parking Spaces To Rear.
£90,000

SHORT HEATH

BENTLEY WHARF, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Two Bed Ground Floor Canalside Apartment. Comprises Lounge, Open Plan Kitchen/Diner, Balcony Offering Canal Views, Bathroom, G/C/H, D/G. Communal Gardens & Allocated Parking.
£100,000

BLOXWICH RD STH, W'HALL
Well Presented Two Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Garden & Driveway Parking To Front & Enclosed Garden To Rear. GREAT FTB!
£100,000

SSTC

TEMPLE ROAD, WILLENHALL
SALE AGREED IN JUST 11 DAYS

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED - BUYERS WAITING

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£109,995

REEDSWOOD

PARKVIEW CRES, WALSALL
Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Guest W.C & Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Detached Garage. Driveway To Front & Side. Enclosed Garden To Rear.
£109,995

THE CRESCENT, WILLENHALL
Modern Two Bed Semi . Comprises Lounge With Open Plan Staircase, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory And Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Block Paved Driveway. Enclosed Rear Garden.
£110,000

BENTLEY

EDINBURGH AVE, WALSALL
Two Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen & Ground Floor W.C. 1st Floor Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Off Road Parking To The Front & Enclosed Garden To The Rear.
£110,000

SHORT HEATH

LODGE STREET, WILLENHALL
Three Bedroom Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen & Family Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Driveway & Garage. Front & Rear Gardens.
£114,995

ALBION ROAD, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Mid Terrace. Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom With Bath & Shower And First Floor W.C Room. D/G. G/C/H. Rear Garden.
£115,000

SHORT HEATH

SHERLOCK CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Guest WC, Spacious Lounge, Conservatory And Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Driveway Parking To Front And Enclosed Garden To Rear.
£118,995

SHORT HEATH

SHERLOCK CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Two Bed End Townhouse. Comprises Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Conservatory. Bathroom, D/G, G/ CH, Parking To The Fore, Enclosed Garden To The Rear
£119,950

POOL HAYES

LUCKNOW ROAD, W'HALL
Immaculately Presented & Extended Two Bed Semi, Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, W/C, Shower Room. D/G & C/H, Off Road Parking. Generous Garden To Rear.
£120,000

SHORT HEATH

MILL LANE, WILLENHALL
Immaculately Presented Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Reception Hallway, Lounge/ Diner, Kitchen, Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H. Integral Garage, Driveway & An Enclosed Rear Garden.
OIEO £120,000

WOODLANDS

OAKEN DRIVE, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Semi Situated On A Generous Corner Plot. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Bathroom, Majority D/G, G/C/H. Driveway & Detached Garage To Front/Side & Garden To Rear.
£125,000

SSTC

SIMMONDS PLACE, WEDNESBURY
SALE AGREED IN JUST 8 DAYS

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED - BUYERS WAITING

CALL FOR A FREE MARKET APPRAISAL NOW
£125,000

SHORT HEATH

WALKERS FOLD, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room, Family Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Extensive Off Road Parking & An Enclosed Rear Garden. Great FTB!
OIEO £130,000

SHORT HEATH

STOURMORE CLOSE, W'HALL
Three Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Driveway Parking & A Garage To The Fore With An Enclosed Garden To Rear.
£140,000

COPPICE FARM

HILLBURY DRIVE, WILLENHALL
Extended Three Bedroom Semi. Comprises Of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Play Room And Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Driveway Parking & Garden To Front. Enclosed Garden To The Rear.
£145,000

KINGFISHER ESTATE

WELLAND GROVE, W'HALL
Three Bedroom Detached Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom. D/ Glazed, G/C/H. Gardens To Front & Rear. Driveway & Garage.
£149,995

BRACKENDALE

ABERFORD CL, WILLENHALL
Five Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Lounge, Spacious Kitchen, Dining Room, Family Bathroom, Separate Shower Room, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Integral Garage. Front & Rear Gardens.
£160,000

SSTC

GEORGE ROSE GARDENS, DARLASTON
SALE AGREED IN UNDER A MONTH

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED - BUYERS WAITING

CALL FOR A FREE MARKET APPRAISAL NOW
£160,000

WOODLANDS

HUNTS LANE, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Extended Four Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge/ Diner, Conservatory, Ground Floor Bedroom, Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H, Off Road Parking. Generous Plot.
£165,000

THE HAYES

CASTLE DRIVE, WILLENHALL
Three/Four Bed Link Detached. Comprises Of Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Ground Floor W.C & Bedroom. Three First Floor Bedrooms & Jack And Jill Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Driveway & Garage. Rear Garden.
£165,000

COPPICE FARM

HIGHMOOR CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Detached. Comprises Of Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Garage, Block Paved Driveway And Enclosed Rear Garden.
£169,995

BENTLEY

MONMOUTH ROAD, WALSALL
Two Bed Detached Bungalow. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, 26ft Sun Room & Shower Room. D/G. G/C/H. Extensive Off Road Parking To Fore & Enclosed Garden To Rear. MUST VIEW!
£170,000

BILSTON LANE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Detached. Comprises Of Porch, Hall, Guest W.C, Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/Diner, Veranda & Family Bathroom. Maj D/G. G/C/H. Garden To Fore. O/R/P. Extensive Gardens To Rear.
£185,000

POOL HAYES

RAVENSCROFT RD, W'HALL
Four Bed Detached. Comprises Of Porch, Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, 24ft Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Utility & Ground Floor W.C. First Floor Has Bathroom & W.C. Two Driveways & Garages. Extensive Rear Gardens.
£280,000

BILSTON LANE, WILLENHALL
Immaculate Four Bed Detached Bungalow. Comprises Porch, Hall, 24ft Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen/ Diner, Bathroom, W.C, Games Room. Extensive Parking, Garden & Workshop. MUST VIEW!
£289,995

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Devon Road
Willenhall

2 Bedroom detached house with no upward chain, entrance lobby, lounge, kitchen, modern bathroom, double glazing and central heating, driveway and rear garden, call Paul Dubberley to view. EPC- D

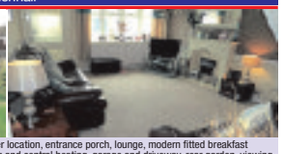
OFFERS AROUND: £100,000

Franchise Street
Wednesbury

Modern 2 bedroom flat in great condition, no upward chain and available immediately, lounge, breakfast kitchen, 2 bedrooms, modern bathroom, double glazing, 2 allocated parking spaces, call Paul Dubberley to view. EPC- C

OFFERS AROUND: £80,000

Druid Park Road
Willenhall



Immaculate 2 bedroom semi detached house in a sought after location, entrance porch, lounge, modern fitted breakfast kitchen, large conservatory, modern bathroom, double glazing and central heating, garage and driveway, rear garden, viewing recommended, call Paul Dubberley to view. EPC - E

OFFERS AROUND: £138,000

Stanton Avenue
Dudley

VIEWING RECOMENDED on this 3 bedroom semi in a quiet cul-de-sac being fully refurbished to a high standard to include new gas central heating, fitted kitchen, fitted bathroom, carpets and upvc double glazing. Further comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, front drive, rear garden and no upward chain.

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000

Marklin Avenue
Wolverhampton

4 Bedroom detached bungalow on a good size plot and bags of potential, driveway and garage, lounge/dining room, kitchen, bathroom, wet room, double glazing, electric heating, rear garden, no upward chain, call Paul Dubberley to view. EPC -E

OFFERS AROUND: £200,000

Lymington Road
Willenhall

3 Bedroom semi detached house on the popular Riverpoint estate available with no upward chain, entrance porch and hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, en-suite to main bedroom, family bathroom, driveway and garage, double glazing and central heating, rear garden, call Paul Dubberley to view. EPC - C

OFFERS AROUND: £158,000

Talke Road
Walsall

Good Size Semi Detached Residence with further potential for extensions (subject to planning permission) Requiring some modernisation. UPVc Double Glazed (where specified) and Gas Central Heating and Offering No Upward Chain the property briefly comprises: Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Utility Room, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Paved Fore Garden, Driveway Garage and Rear Garden

OFFERS AROUND: £95,000

Primley Avenue
Walsall

□br:-Well presented semi detached residence situated in a popular location close to all amenities and transport links. Gas Central Heating and UPVc double glazing this spacious family home briefly comprises: Reception Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, En suite shower room to master, Shower Room, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway and Garage. No Upward Chain.

OFFERS AROUND: £109,950

Darwin Road
Walsall

End Terraced Residence on a good size corner plot which benefits from UPVc Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating and No Upward Chain. Briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, 2 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Front & Rear Garden. EPC Rating D

OFFERS AROUND: £74,950

Lawnside Green
Bilston

Modernised 3 Bedroom semi detached house with no upward chain, driveway, entrance hall, wc, modern kitchen, lounge, dining room, modern bathroom, double glazing and central heating, no upward chain, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £107,500

Stowmans Close
Bilston

Ideal for FTB, A well presented two bedrooms semi detached house, which benefits from lounge fitted kitchen, family bathroom front and rear garden and ample parking. Accommodation also benefits from double glazing and central heating.

OFFERS AROUND: £129,950

Shale Street
Bilston

3 Bedroom semi detached house, driveway, entrance porch and hallway, lounge, kitchen, modern bathroom, double glazing and central heating, rear garden and brick built storage room/office, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £105,000

Rathbone Close
Bilston

2 Bedroom ground floor flat close to Bilston centre and with no upward chain, entrance porch and hallway, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, double glazing and central heating, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £65,000

Broadstone Avenue
Walsall

A traditional style three bedroom semi detached residence situated in an established residential location whilst benefiting from a LARGE REAR GARDEN. Further features include two reception rooms, garage, modern kitchen & first floor bathroom. Viewing essential to appreciate size. Energy rating E.

OFFERS AROUND: £144,950

Burford Close
Walsall

□br:-Double Fronted Semi Detached residence in a popular location close to all local amenities and transport links. Spacious accommodation briefly comprising: Reception Hall. Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom & Separate WC, Front and Rear Gardens. Call 01902 241100 No Chain

OFFERS AROUND: £99,950

Wareham Close
Walsall

Semi detached residence on a popular development close to local amenities and transport links. Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing (where specified) and offering No Upward Chain. Briefly Comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Garden and Side Driveway.

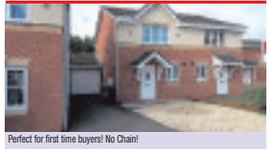
OFFERS AROUND: £79,950

Moseley Road
Bilston

Semi Detached residence close to all local amenities, transport links and offering NO Upward Chain. Requiring some modernisation the property benefits from UPVc double glazing and Gas Central Heating. Briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Ground Floor Shower Room, Conservatory, WC, 3 Bedrooms, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway & Garage.

OFFERS AROUND: £119,950

Marbury Drive
Bilston



Perfect for first time buyers! No Chain!

This well presented two bedroom semi house situated in a quiet cul-de-sac benefits from a fitted kitchen, Guest W.C, Lounge and Conservatory, on the first floor the property benefits from two double bedrooms and en-suites to both. The property also benefits from double glazing front and

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000

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LOT 2 Hardy Road Walsall
Viewings: 8th June 9:30am

This traditionally styled mid terraced property is in need of full modernisation and has issues with the floor slab. Whilst the property has central heating, the remainder needs total refubishment and comprises: Ground Floor: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall opening into Dining Room measuring and Rear Lounge. First Floor: Three Bedrooms and Bathroom.

●Guide Price £35,000 - £40,000

LOT 4a Beech Road Tamworth
4th June 12pm and 10th June 10am

This non standard construction (Wates) mid town house is located on a popular residential development and would make an ideal purchase for a cash investor. Set back behind a driveway with a private garden to the rear all amenities are close at hand and the accommodation with gas central heating and double glazing comprises: Ground Floor: Reception Hall, Open Plan Lounge/Diner, Kitchen. First Floor: Bedroom One (front), Bedroom Two (rear), Bathroom.

●Guide Price £77,500 PLUS

LOT 7 Parker Street Walsall
Viewings: 8th June 10:45am

Situated close to Bloxwich town centre this Victorian mid terraced property has gas fired central heating and double glazing and would make an ideal purchase for an investor. Ground Floor: Lounge double doors to Dining Room, Rear Lobby, Kitchen, Bathroom. First Floor: Three Bedrooms.

●Guide Price £45,000 - £50,000

LOT 9 Buchanan Avenue Walsall
Viewings: 8th June 1:30pm

Situated with views across Walsall Arboretum to the front and close to Walsall town centre this detached family home has suffered some structural defects (see legal pack for details) and offers an ideal development opportunity. The spacious well planned accommodation with double glazing and central heating comprises:- Ground Floor: Reception Hall, Large Lounge, Fitted L-Shaped Breakfast Kitchen, Separate Dining Room, Lobby and W.C. First Floor: Bedroom One (front) with steps up to full En-Suite Bathroom, Bedroom Two (rear), Bedroom Three (front), Bedroom Four (front), Family Bathroom with matching suite.

●Guide Price £120,000 PLUS

LOT 10 Westbourne Road Walsall
Viewings: 8th June 1pm

This Substantial double fronted semi-detached property is situated in an ideal location for Walsall town centre and offers great potential for investors. The property is in need of some refurbishment and offers great scope for improvement and possible development with vehicular access to the site. The centrally heated and double glazed property comprises:- Ground Floor: Entrance Hall leading to under stair cupboard, W.C, Living Room, Lounge, Kitchen with side door leading to garden. First Floor: Hallway leads to Bathroom and Two Bedrooms. Second Floor: Small Hallway leads to Bedroom Three with skylight, Bedroom Four with separate large storage room and another storage room at the end of the landing.

●Guide Price £140,000 PLUS

LOT 11 Chester Road Erdington
Viewings: 6th June 10am

This very spacious Five Bedroom double fronted property is ideally located for local amenities and is already benefiting from part double glazing and gas central heating. As well as a large mature garden the property comprises: Ground Floor: Guest shower room, Sitting room, Lounge, Dining Room and Kitchen. First Floor: Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Second Floor: Bedrooms Four and Five

●Guide Price £165,000 PLUS

LOT 12 Fisher Road Bloxwich
Viewings: 8th June 11:15am

Traditionally styled semi detached property in need of complete modernisation and improvement but conveniently located within a short distance of Bloxwich centre. Ground Floor: Reception Hall with stairs off, Kitchen/Diner (to front) with access to outbuildings and side access. Full width Lounge. First Floor: Three Bedrooms and Bathroom.

●Guide Price £60,000 PLUS

LOT 13 Aldridge Road Great Barr
6th June 12:45 and 8th June 3:15

Purpose built first floor maisonette with double glazing and storage heaters conveniently located close to all amenities ideally suited to the needs of an investor or first time buyer comprising: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Kitchen, Lounge, Two Bedroom, Shower Room, w.c and garage. Viewings: Wednesday 13th May 3:15pm, Tuesday 19th May 3:15pm, Tuesday 26th May 3:15pm, Monday 8th June 3:15pm

●Guide Price £70,000 PLUS

LOT 15 High Street Walsall Wood
By appointment through auctioneers

A modern detached family home currently let on an Assured Shorthold Periodic Tenancy dated 21st October 2014 at a rent of £650.00 PCM. Conveniently located in a popular residential area close to Walsall Wood centre, the property has gas central heating, is predominantly double glazed and comprises: Ground Floor: Reception Hall with stairs off, Lounge leading into Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen First Floor:Bedroom One (front), Bedroom Two (rear), Bedroom Three (front) and Bathroom. Outside: Garage. The property is set back behind a lawned foregarden flanked by a driveway with off street parking. Whilst to the rear is a private enclosed garden.

●Guide Price £100,000 PLUS

LOT 16 Intown Row Rear of 47-55 Bridge Street Walsall
By appointment through auctioneer.

This two-storey Commercial Property offers great potential for investment with easy access to motorway links and a Walsall town centre. The property comprises a recently refurbished first floor as well as the ground floor including a Sub Station premises which has been sold by way of a long lease at a nominal rent. The Property Comprises: Ground Floor: Store (191 sq ft) First Floor: Hall/Inner Lobby, Kitchen, Toilet and 5 Separate Rooms. (Access to first floor via External Staircase)

●Guide Price £45,000 PLUS

LOT 18 Birches Rise Willenhall
Viewings: 8th June 11:45am

Situated close to Willenhall town centre, this detached family home is in need of some improvement whilst offering an ideal opportunity for an investor or owner/occupier. The well planned accommodation with the benefit of new double glazing comrpises: Ground Floor: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen Utility Room and w.c. First Floor: Three Bedrooms and Bathroom.

●Guide Price £90,000 PLUS

LOT 20 Hardy Road Walsall
Viewings: 8th June 9:50am

Traditionally styled mid terraced property with gas fired central heating in need of complete modernisation and having issues with the floor slab.

Ground Floor: Reception Hall, Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen.

First Floor: Three Bedrooms and Bathroom

●Guide Price £35,000 - £40,000

LOT 21 Cambridge Street Walsall
Viewings: 8th June 12:30pm

A well maintained three bedroom semi detached property situated in this particularly convenient residential location, ideally suited to the needs of a young family purchaser with uPVC double glazing and gas fired central heating. The property in brief comprises: Hall, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen, Guest W.C, Three Bedrooms, Tiled Family Bathroom, Fore and Rear Garden with potential for off street parking. EPC Rating D

●Guide Price £80,000 PLUS

LOT 22 Flat 24 School Lofts, Cecil Street Walsall
Viewings: 6th June 10:30am

Conveniently located close to Walsall Town Centre this immaculate double glazed ground floor flat would make an ideal purchase for a first time buyer or investor who could receive a gross yield of in excess of 10% (based upon a purchase price at the Guide). Set in a prominent position with secure gated allocated parking the property comprises: Accommodation: Communal Hall, door to Entrance Hall, Lounge, Well Equipped Fitted Kitchen with stainless steel sink unit, range of units and built in electric oven and hob, fridge and freezer. Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Shower Room with tiled walls and floor, Shower Cubicle, low level w.c. and wash basin.

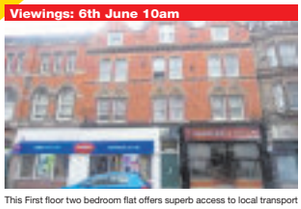
●Guide Price £53,000 PLUS

LOT 23 Dawson Street Walsall
Viewings :8th June 10:15am

Traditionally styled semi detached property in need of complete modernisation and improvement. Ground Floor: Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Lobby with W.C. First Floor: Three Bedrooms and bathroom.

●Guide Price £30,000 - £35,000

LOT 24 Flat 3 Bridge Street Chambers Walsall
Viewings: 6th June 10am



This First floor two bedroom flat offers superb access to local transport links and is situated in the centre of Walsall town centre; the property is in need of some refurbishment and offers great scope for a future investor offering good potential yields. The property comprises: Accommodation: Entrance hall leading to Bathroom , Living Room, Kitchen, Bedroom One and Bedroom two. (Viewers are advised to bring a torch)

●Guide Price £39,000 PLUS

LOT 25 Prince Street Walsall
Viewings:6th June 12pm, 9th June 1pm

Victorian end terraced property being gas centrally heated and predominantly double glazed situated close to Pleck Centre. In need of some improvement and modernisation the property would suit an investor or owner occupier and comprises: Ground Floor: Lounge, Dining Room, Inner Hallway with stairs to first floor off, Kitchen with an Ideal gas central heating boiler. Rear Lobby with door to outside and access to Bathroom with panelled bath, pedestal wash hand basin and w.c. First Floor:Three Bedrooms

●Guide Price £59,000 PLUS

LOT 26 Delves Crescent Walsall
6th June 11am and 8th June 4pm

This traditionally styled gas centrally heated and double glazed semi detached property is set on a larger than average plot and offers scope for improvement and modernisation. Conveniently located the property comprises: Ground Floor: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge with bay window to front, Dining Room with French door to rear garden, Kitchen, door to Garage. First Floor: Three Bedrooms and shower room.

●Guide Price £110,000 PLUS

LOT 27 Delves Crescent Walsall
6th June 11.30am and 8th June 4:30pm

Situated in a popular residential area of South Walsall this traditionally styled semi detached property is in need of modernisation and improvement. Ground Floor: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen (not fitted). First Floor: Bedroom One (front), Bedroom Two (Rear), Bedroom Three (front), Bathroom.

●Guide Price £120,000 PLUS

●Guides are provided as an indication of each seller's minimum expectation. They are not necessarily figures which a property will sell for and may change at any time prior to the auction. Each property will be offered subject to a Reserve (a figure below which the Auctioneer cannot sell the property during the auction) which we expect will be set within the Guide Range or no more than 10% above a single figure Guide

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Cottage Lane Burntwood

Offers around £190,000

A rare opportunity to purchase a unique detached dormer bungalow with plenty of character and charm and having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This splendid cottage is located in a quiet cul-de-sac and further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen diner, 2 x ground floor double bedrooms, family bathroom, utility room, 1st floor master bedroom with ensuite shower room, off road parking for several vehicles and detached double garage, good size rear garden with patio. Energy rating E.

Sefton Grove Wednesbury

Offers around £134,950

An improved and upgraded modern three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of new carpets and fresh decoration thoughout, UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, porch, lounge with wall mounted modern remote fire, refitted modern kitchen diner, three bedrooms, refitted family bathroom, rear garden and off road parking to the front. Energy rating D.

Laneside Gardens Walsall

Offers around £109,950

An improved, upgraded and refurbished threee bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This well presented property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, refitted kitchen diner, guest W.C, 3 bdrooms, refitted bathroom, front and rear gardens. Internal viewing is a must to appriciate what the property has too offer. Energy rating D.

Mistletoe Drive Tamebridge

Offers around £110,000

A two bedroom end of terrace family home having the benefit of double glazing and gas central heating. Located in a sort after estate in a quiet cul-de-sac the property further comprises reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and two parking spaces. Energy rating D.

Ryle Street Bloxwich

Offers around £99,995

A very well presented extended 3 bedroom semi detached family home with no upward chain. The property boasts an entrance porch, good sized living room, dining room, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom on the ground floor and a modern shower room on the first floor. The property also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, driveway and front and rear gardens. Energy rating C.

Wolfsbane Drive Walsall

Offers around £99,995

A modern one bedroom middle terrace property in a sought after estate having the benefit of double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This lovely property further comprises reception hall, fitted kitchen, lounge, double bedroom, bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens and off road parking. Energy rating C.

Hilton Road Willenhall

Offers around £95,000

A well presented three bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This lovely family home further comprises, porch, reception hall, fitted kitchen/diner, guest W.C, lounge. three bedrooms, family shower room, front and rear gardens and communal parking area. Energy rating C.

Darwin Road Bloxwich

Offers around £74,950

A two bedroom end of terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, utility room, two double bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens. Energy rating D.

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Montgomery Road Bentley

Offers around £116,995

A good size three bedroom family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, porch, reception hall, through lounge, fitted kitchen, dining room, three bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, off road parking and garage. Energy rating D.

Bentley Drive Walsall

Offers around £120,000

A superb, improved and upgraded two bedroom semi detached property having the benefit of UPVC double and gas central heating. This lovely well presented family home further comprises, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, refitted bathroom, two double bedrooms and front and rear gardens. Energy rating D.

Franchise Gardens Wednesbury

Offers around £84,000

A good size three bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, porch, reception hall, guest W.C, fitted breakfast kitchen, lounge, three bedrooms, family shower room, front and rear gardens, off road parking and separate garage. Energy rating D.

Blackthorne Road Walsall

Offers around £128,000

A three bedroom semi detached family home on a corner plot having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, kitchen diner, guest W.C, three bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking. Energy rating D.

Hollyhedge Lane Walsall

Offers around £250,000

●●INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE TWO SEMI DETACHED HOUSES, TOTAL RENTAL INCOME £1425PCM●● Comprising a computer repair shop currently let for £500pcm with a one bedroom flat above let out at £400pcm. Number 105 is currently let out as a 3 bedroom semi for £525pcm (was previously a barber shop). Garages at rear with potential to convert to flats (Subject to planning permission) Call agent for viewing and further details

Wordsworth Road Willenhall

Offers around £115,000

A well presented 3 bedroom end of terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely property further comprises, porch, reception hall, through lounge/diner, refitted kitchen, utility room, 3 bedrooms, refitted family bathroom, front and rear gardens. Energy rating D.

Eagleworks Drive Bloxwich

Offers around £54,950

84 Eagleworks Drive, Walsall, WS3 1BF. We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £54,950. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place

Wolverhampton Street Willenhall

Offers around £125,000

A good sized three bedroom semi detached property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This well presented property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room ,fitted kitchen, family bathroom, 3 double bedrooms and front and rear garden. Energy rating E.

Ashmore Lake Road Willenhall

Offers around £109,995

A superb improved and upgraded two bedroom semi detched property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely well presented family home further comprises, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, refitted bathroom, rear garden and off road parking to the front. Energy Rating E

Pooles Lane Willenhall

Offers around £132,995

A good size three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating, fitted intruder alarm and no upward chain. This ideal family home further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, guest W.C, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, spacious rear garden, off road parking for around 4-5 vehicles. Energy rating E.

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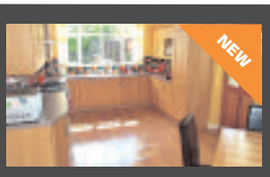
EPC E



NEW

ESSINGTON LONG LANE
- Exceptional Detached Residence
- Open Aspect To Front And Rear
- Stunning Gardens
- Hall with Guests WC
- Lounge
- Superb Dining Kitchen / Family Room
- Three Bedrooms
- Garage

£280,000

EPC C

NEW PRICE

ESSINGTON SWYNNERTON DRIVE
- Beautifully Presented Detached
- No Chain
- Hall Wich Wc
- Open Plan 24ft Lounge/Dining
- Fitted Kitchen, 4 Bedrooms
- Re-fitted Bathroom
- Garage, Driveway
- Pleasant Gardens

£255,000

EPC D

NEW PRICE

COPPICE FARM BOWNESS GROVE
- Superb 4 bedroom Detached
- 2 Receptions
- Conservatory
- Kitchen, Utility
- En-suite Shower room
- Family bathroom
- Garage
- Long drive

£234,995

EPC D

NEW PRICE

BRIARSLEIGH WESTERN CLOSE
- Outstanding Extended Semi
- Lounge ● Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Impressive Conservatory
- 4 Bedrooms
- Luxury Shower Room
- Garage ● Block Paved Drive
- Pleasant Gardens

£180,000

EPC TBC

NEW

WILLENHALL BEWLEY ROAD
- Extended 3 Bedroom Detached
- Pleasant Gardens
- Hall ● Large Lounge / Dining Room
- Conservatory ● Kitchen
- Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazing
- Garage

£155,000

EPC D

NEW PRICE

WILLENHALL ALTON AVENUE
- Renovated 3 Bedroom Semi on Popular Road
- Hall, Spacious Lounge
- New Fitted Dining Kitchen ● New Shower Room
- Garage ● Block Paved Drive ● Rear Gardens

£134,995

EPC D

NEW

COUNTY BRIDGE SOMERSET ROAD
- Well Presented Extended Semi Detached
- Through Lounge / Dining Room, Extended Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms, Excellent Re-fitted Bathroom
- Double Glaz, Gas CH, Driveway, Pleasant Gardens

£134,000

EPC E

NEW

COUNTY BRIDGE DEVON ROAD
- Improved Traditional Bay Fronted Semi Detached
- Hall, Lounge, Excellent Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms, Re-fitted Shower Room
- Garage, Driveway, Rear Gardens, No Chain

£125,950

EPC TBC

NEW

PORTOBELLO BROOK ROAD
- Impressive 3 Bedrooms Semi Detached
- Lounge, Re-fitted Kitchen, Conservatory
- Superb Outbuilding (Ideal As A Gym Or Office)
- Gas CH, D Glaz, Driveway, Pleasant Gardens

£115,000

EPC D

NEW

WILLENHALL CLOTHIER STREET
- Renovated 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace Property
- Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom
- Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating System
- Rear Gardens, No Upward Chain

£110,000

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EPC D

NEW

BENTLEY ALEXANDER ROAD
- Excellent Size 3 Bed Semi Detached Property
- Occupying A Corner Position In Popular Area
- Hall, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen, Large Utility
- Bathroom, Front And Rear Gardens, No Chain

£125,00

EPC D

NEW PRICE

NEW INVENTION ALBERT CLARKE DRIVE
- Impressive Much Improved Modern Semi Detached
- Hall, Lounge, Re-fitted Dining Kitchen
- Two Good Size Bedrooms, Re-fitted Bathroom
- Garage, Drive, Excellent Front And Rear Gardens

£120,000

EPC E

NEW

COPPICE FARM COTSWOLD GROVE
- Much Improved 2 Bedrooms Mid Terrace Bungalow
- Development For Over 55's ● No Chain
- Lounge, Newly Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory
- Bathroom, D Glazing, Communal Gardens

£100,000

EPC C

NEW

WILLENHALL CLARKES LANE
- First Floor Two Bedrooms Apartment
- Hall, Lounge With Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom, Allocated Parking Space
- Double Glazing, Gas CH, No Upward Chain

£86,000

EPC E

NEW PRICE

WILLENHALL POOL HAYES LANE
- Spacious Extended Detached No Upward Chain
- Through Lounge / Dining Room ● Breakfast Kitchen
- Sitting Room / Bedroom 4 ● 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom ● Driveway ● Rear Gardens

£165,000

EPC D

WILLENHALL ALVINGTON CLOSE
- Improved 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Lounge with Dining Area ● Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing ● Gas CH
- Garage and Driveway ● Pleasant Gardens

£139,950

EPC C

NEW INVENTION DELAMERE ROAD
- Improved Three Bedroom Semi Detached Property
- Lounge & Conservatory ● Dining Kitchen
- Bathroom ● Garage ● Block Paved Driveway
- Gas CH ● Double Glazing ● Rear Gardens

£139,950

EPC D

NEW PRICE

WILLENHALL WATERY LANE
- Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- On Impressive Plot ● No Chain
- Hall, Spacious Lounge ● Re-fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom ● Large Gardens ● Driveway

£140,000

EPC D

NO CHAIN

SNEYD PARK DRUID PARK ROAD
- Well Appointed Semi Detached Property
- Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory
- Two Double Bedrooms, Shower Room,
- Garage, Driveway, Rear Gardens, No Chain

£125,000

EPC D

WILLENHALL YALE ROAD
- Well Presented Modern Town House
- Hall, Lounge, Impressive Conservatory, Guests Wc
- Two Bedrooms ● Parking For Two Cars
- Enclosed Rear Decked And Paved Garden

£120,000

EPC D

NO CHAIN

WILLENHALL HODSON AVENUE
- Much Improved 3 Bedrooms Semi Detached
- Hall, Lounge, Impressive Dining Kitchen ● No Chain
- Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating
- Block Paved Driveway, Pleasant Rear Gardens

£117,000

EPC C

NO CHAIN

BENTLEY CHURCHILL ROAD
- Semi Detached Property with No Chain
- Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen,
- Three Bedrooms, Bathroom & Separate Wc.
- Rear Gardens ● Gas CH ● Double Glazing

£110,000

EPC C

SHORT HEATH BENTLEY LANE
- Superb 2 Bedrooms Second Floor Apartment
- Excellent Open Plan Dining Room/ Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge ● Large Bathroom
- Double Glazing, Gas CH ● Allocated Parking Space

£103,000

EPC D

SHORT HEATH CHAUCER AVENUE
- Spacious Two Bedroom Mid Terrace Property
- Through Lounge / Dining Room ● Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom ● Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazing ● Front & Rear Gardens

£88,000

EPC D

WILLENHALL WELLINGTON PLACE
- Well Appointed First Floor Duplex Maisonette
- Allocated Parking Spaces
- Lounge with Dining Area ● Large Bedroom
- Fitted Kitchen ● Bathroom ● Double Glazing

OFFERS OVER £85,000

EPC C

NEW

HADLEY HEATH PACKWOOD CLOSE
- Modern Town House Ideal For FTB Or Investors
- Lounge, Re-fitted Kitchen, One Double Bedroom
- Re-fitted Bathroom, Parking, Garden,
- Gas Central Heating System, Double Glazing

£82,000

K.Stuart Swash

AUCTION – 9th JUNE 2015

CHAPEL COTTAGE
OLD STOWHEATH LANE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Deceptively spacious Detached, Two Reception, Kitchen
Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas CH.
Outside: Stores, WC, Double Garage, several additional outbuildings, large plot.
epc: TBA

Guide: £145,000 / £155,000

VIEWING
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 5th AND 6th JUNE AT 9.45am

1 MOUNT ROAD, PENN

Well located Detached, Porch, Hall, 26ft Through Lounge, Kitchen
Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas CH, upvc windows, off-road parking
Rear Garden approx. 120ft. depth.
epc: E.48

Guide: £130,000 / £135,000

VIEWING
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 5th AND 6th JUNE AT 11.30am

33 MARTIN STREET
WOLVERHAMPTON

Well presented Mid Terraced, enclosed Porch, Two Reception, smart Kitchen, large Landing, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas CH., upvc windows long Rear Garden. epc: C.69

Guide: £68,000 / £73,000

VIEWING
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 5th AND 6th JUNE AT 10.45am

19 EASTCROFT ROAD
PENN

Established residential area – set well back from road Porch, Hall, Two Reception, Kitchen, Lobby, WC., Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, upvc windows, Large 18ft. workshop area, pleasant Rear Garden with open outlook beyond. epc: E.42

Guide: £58,000 / £63,000

VIEWING
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 5th AND 6th JUNE AT 12.15pm

19 WEST PARK COURT
CONNAUGHT ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Conveniently yet discreetly situated Ground Floor Flat,
Hall with fitted cupboards, Lounge overlooking grounds, Kitchen,
Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, Gas CH., upvc windows, Garage. epc: D.63

Guide: £58,000 / £63,000

VIEWING
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 5th AND 6th JUNE AT 1.00pm

GOSPEL END, SEDGLEY

Excellent Agricultural Barn
approx. 1,400 sq. ft. (14'6" to eaves)
Steel truss framed unit built of brick with profiled clad upper section,
pitched roof with lights, roller shutter to 14' – Freehold

Guide: £18,000 / £23,000

VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

PARADE OF

LOCK-UP GARAGES

r/o 19-29 MARNEL DRIVE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Parade of 16 + two additional parking spaces

15 currently let producing £3,888 p.a.

Potential gross income £4,176

Guide: £48,000 / £53,000

BUILDING LAND WITH PLANNING PERMISSION
r/o 44-48 GOLDTHORN HILL, WOLVERHAMPTON.

Rectangular Site currently having a parade of 8 Lock-Up Garages.
Planning Permission granted for erection of Four Flats – three 2 bed + one 3 bed / 2 bath

Guide: £70,000 / £80,000

PARCEL OF FREEHOLD LAND
31 UPPER VILLIERS STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON

Formerly the site of a property – an area of open land having frontage of 42ft approx. to Upper Villiers Street – estimated site area of 500 sq. yds. or thereabouts

Guide: £15,000 / £20,000

CITY CENTRE – WHEELER'S FOLD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Victorian brick built Unit with internal steel frame,
Ideal Storage, Garaging or other uses (STPP)
Ground Floor approx. 550 sq. ft. + additional First Floor area with windows
Guide: £23,000 / £28,000

VIEWING
BY APPOINTMENT WITH AUCTIONEERS

VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK
PLEASE NOTE: Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

(subject to Conditions and prior sale)
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- Two Reception Rooms Plus Sun Room
- Garage And Utility
- Master Ensuite
- Private Landscaped Rear Garden

Monthly Rental Of £795

Woodall Street,Walsall
- Four Bed Detached
- Viewing Essential
- Through Lounge/Diner
- Guest W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Shower Room

Monthly Rental Of £750

Broadway,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Ground Floor
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Master Bedroom/Ensuite
- Bathroom
- Intercom Access

Monthly Rental Of £550

Wolverhampton Street,Walsall
- Two Bedroom 1st Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge
- Kitchen with Integrated Appliances
- Master Bedroom with Ensuite
- Family Bathroom
- Secure Allocated Parking

Monthly Rental Of £550

Mellish Road,Walsall
- First Floor Apartment
- Within Walking Distance Of Walsall Town And Walsall Arboretum
- Refitted Kitchen And Bathroom
- Two Large Double Bedrooms
- Allocated Off Road Parking

Monthly Rental Of £550

Springfields,Walsall
- Three Bedroom Terraced
- Guest Cloakroom
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Off Road Parking
- Family Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £525

Belper Road,Walsall
- Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted, No Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £500

Glastonbury Crescent,Walsall
- Three Bedroom Semi - Detached
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £495

Coalmeadow Close,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Semi - Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £495

Hawbush Road,Walsall
- Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Family Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £495

Valley Road,Walsall
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Downstairs W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £495

West Street,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Terraced
- Very Well Presented
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Rear Gardens

Monthly Rental Of £495

York House,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- First Floor
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Master Bedroom/Ensuite
- Allocated Parking
- Intercom Access

Monthly Rental Of £495.00

Bagnall Street,Walsall
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs Toilet
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

Monthly Rental Of £475

Tintern Crescent,Walsall
- Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Lounge
- Newly Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Utility Area
- Family Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted, Sorry No Pets

Monthly Rental Of £475

Tame Street East,Walsall
- Three Bedroom Semi - Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £475

Abbey Square,Walsall
- Three Bedroom Terraced
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted.

Monthly Rental Of £475

Stafford Street,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Ground Floor
- New Build
- Intercom Access
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Master Bedroom En-Suite

Monthly Rental Of £475

Thornbury Road,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge & Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower Over
- Allocated Parking Space
- Quiet Location
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £460

Norton Road,Pelsall
- One Bedroom Flat
- Above Retail Premises
- Pelsall Village Centre
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £425

Walker Road,Walsall
- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Entrance Hallway with Storage
- Large Lounge with French Doors
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower Over Bath
- DHSS Accepted.

Monthly Rental Of £450

Cairns Street,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Terraced
- Through Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £425

Terret Close,Walsall
- One Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge & Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Electric Heating & Double Glazing
- Allocated Parking
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £425

Waterfront Way,Walsall
- One Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge / Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower over Bath
- Allocated Parking
- Secure Gated Entrance
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £425

Leamore Lane,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Terraced House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £425

Gallery Square,Walsall
- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Town Centre Location
- Close to all Transport Links
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £425

Cairns Street,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Terraced
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £425

Bloxwich Road,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Private Entrance
- Open Plan Lounge / Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Parking Space
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £400

Bridge Street,Walsall
- One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Secure Off Road Parking
- Town Centre Location
- Close to all transport links & amenities

Monthly Rental Of £400

Stafford Street,Walsall
- One Bedroom Apartment
- New Build
- Top Floor
- Intercom access
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Shower Room

Monthly Rental Of £375

Marsh Street,Walsall
- Studio Apartment, Walsall Town Centre
- Separate Shower Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Balcony with Canal Views
- Close to all amenities
- Sorry No DHSS.

Monthly Rental Of £350

The Exchange,Walsall
- First Floor One Bedroom Flat
- Above Retail Premises
- Bloxwich High Street Location
- Lounge/Kitchen
- DHSS Accepted
-

Monthly Rental Of £350

Moat Road,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Flat Above Retail Premises
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Close to Town Centre & Manor Hospital
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £350

Harrison Street,Walsall
- One Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Open Plan Kitchen & Lounge
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Electric Heating
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £350

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- One Bedroomed Property
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- Bathroom
- Lounge
- Electric Heating
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £325

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- Family Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £695

Gurnard Close,Willenhall
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Extended
- Entrance porch/Hall
- Through Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C.

Monthly Rental Of £650

High Street,Walsall
- Immacualte Modern Apartment
- Canalside Views
- Large Lounge
- Kitchen With Appliances
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Gated Off Road Parking

Monthly Rental Of £550

Trees Road,Walsall
- Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating & D.Glazing
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £550

Deepmore Avenue,Walsall
- Three Bed Semi-Detached
- Entrance Hall
- Lounge
- Extended Kitchen/Diner
- Utility Room
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets, Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £550

Harrowby Place,Willenhall
- Immaculate Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen with Breakfast Bar
- Utility and WC
- Family Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £550

Coppice Road,Walsall Wood
- Two Bedroom Modern Apartment
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Master Ensuite
- Off Road Parking and Communal Grounds

Monthly Rental Of £525

Botany Road,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Terraced House
- Lounge
- Newly Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Large Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £525

New Forest Road,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Recently Fitted Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

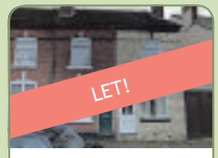
Monthly Rental Of £500

Lancaster Place,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- D.Glazing & G.C.Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Kitchen/Utility
- DHSS Accepted
- Lounge

Monthly Rental Of £500

Terret Close,Walsall
- Two Bedroom 1st Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge / Kitchen
- Master with En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Allocated Off Road Parking
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets, Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £495



Cope Street,Walsall
- Three Bed Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £495

Primley Avenue,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Terraced Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Downstairs Shower Room
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £475

Basalt Close,Walsall
- Two Bedroom End of Terrace Quadrant
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower
- Off Road Parking
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £450

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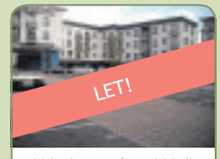
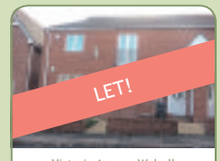


Wolverhampton Street,Walsall
- One Bedroom 3rd Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Built in Appliances
- Bathroom with Shower
- Allocated Parking
- Secure Gated Entrance

Monthly Rental Of £450

Millfield Avenue,Walsall
- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Lounge
- Kitchen / Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Utility Area & WC
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £450



Victoria Avenue,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Large Lounge with Storage
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers

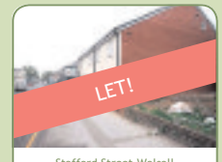
Monthly Rental Of £450

Newhome Way,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom With Shower over Bath
- Allocated Parking
- DHSS Accepted. Sorry No Pets

Monthly Rental Of £450

Taverners Close,Willenhall
- One Bedroom Ground Floor Maisonette
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Front Garden

Monthly Rental Of £395



Stafford Street,Walsall
- One Bedroom Flat
- New Build
- Top Floor
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Double Glazing

Monthly Rental Of £350

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Ford Focus is getting even better

By Anthony Martyn

Every once in a while, a car is launched that instantly makes all of its rivals look stupid and old. Ford pulled off that particular trick back in 1998, when it launched the Mk 1 Focus. The way it drove was a revelation. and now we are on the fourth incarnation.

Ford has subtly tweaked the handling, making changes to the suspension to improve the ride and slightly lightening the steering. As a result, it's a better long-distance travelling companion.

The engine range has also been much revised. Let's start with petrol power. Though at the foot of the range, it's still possible to get the old-tech 1.6-litre Ti-VCT unit in 85, 105 and 125PS guises, the mainstream petrol line-up is these days primarily based around the brand's clever 1.0-litre three cylinder turbo EcoBoost unit, offered with either 100 or 125PS.

Above that now sits a 1.5-litre EcoBoost unit, offered with either 150 or 182PS. EcoBoost technology is also used in the hot hatch models, with a 2.0-litre 250PS unit used in the Focus ST and a 2.3-litre 320PS powerplant used in the top Focus RS.

Those in search of a diesel have a choice between the old-tech 1.6-litre TDCi units, offering either 95 or 115PS. Or newtech 1.5-litre TDCi engines offering either 95 or 120PS. Make sure you know what you're getting.

Above these, there's an uprated 150PS 2.0-litre TDCi unit, also offered in 185PS guise to Focus ST buyers. Otherwise, the only other option is the intriguing Focus Electric model which uses a combination of a 107KW electric motor and a 23kW lithium-ion battery to deliver a useful 142PS and 250Nm of torque.

Many will baulk at the restricted 100-mile driving range though.

Distinctive

It's only when you put this improved Focus next to the original third generation version that you realise just how much more expensive this model looks.

The most obvious change is the addition of an Aston Martin-style trapezoidal front grille, there to give the front end a more distinctive look also emphasised by subtle chrome detailing and these slimmer, smarter front headlights and restyled foglamps.

The interior has also been given a serious once-over. The fascia design is more intuitive, that button-strewn centre stack and steering wheel being tidied up considerably.

The black satin trim and chrome detailing contribute to a cleaner aesthetic too. Many of the controls are now marshalled by the SYNC 2 high-resolution, 8in colour touch screen system. This includes voice control for 'easier' access to audio, navigation, climate control and compatible mobile phones.

One thing that's undoubtedly an improvement is practicality. The centre storage console offers more space as well as a new sliding, integrated armrest, accommodating a variety of bottles and cups with the capacity to simultaneously hold a litre water bottle and a 400ml cup.

It's actually quite hard to know where to start when trying to explain the Focus model range to an unfamiliar buyer. It is, after all, so vast. Still, we'll do our best. The simplest aspect is the availability of just two bodystyles, a five-door hatch or, for a model-for-model premium of around £1,100, a smartly-styled estate option.

Most of the mainstream petrol variants offer the option of automatic transmission too. It's the under-the-bonnet issues though, that require Focus buyers to really know the ropes when it comes to the selection process.

Let me explain why.

'Focus' is the world's best selling global nameplate – with good reason. Has any car had more of an impact on modern era motoring than the Ford Focus?

With over 12 million global sales on the board, it's hard to argue the point.

Standard equipment on 1 Series better than ever before

By Ian Donaldson

When a car as important to BMW as its 1 Series hatchback comes around for a refresh you can bet the designers laboured long into the night on the tiniest detail. How about making the exhaust pipe a little bit fatter because it gives the back of the car a more sporty look?

Tick that one off among a host of changes to a model that claims one in five sales to British buyers of new BMWs and is expected to find 30,000 homes here each year.

You need to be a bit of a BMW anorak to spot the new tailpipe but changes to the lights at both ends give the latest 1 Series a wider, bolder look.

Inside, the cockpit is still aimed at serious drivers but there's a modest injection of extra pizzazz with added gloss black and splashes of chrome.

But it's under the surface where BMW has made its more important changes, starting with the choice of a new diesel engine (largely shared with a Mini Cooper D) that promises more than adequate performance and startling (theoretical) economy.

More powerful diesels are offered too, along with a range of petrol engines that climax with the M135i and its 155mph potential.

And for those critics who said BMWs were too meanly equipped for the money, comes news that every new car from the company – from cheapest 1 Series upward – will have satellite navigation as standard by September.

Generous

That doesn't mean you will be short of the chance to spend extra on options, of which there is long list, from metallic paint (£550) and a £600 sound system upgrade to active cruise control (£790) and a £330 reversing camera.

Even so, standard kit across the new range (which extends from £20,245 to £31,730 at the moment) is more generous than reputation has, ranging from DAB radio and Bluetooth to a big colour screen on the dash, climate control and LED lights at the rear.

Most buyers are happy to pay £1,000 more for a Sport package of different alloys, steering wheel and body styling tweaks or even find £2,700 for an M Sport package of bigger alloys, LED headlights, styling additions and firmer suspension.

Whichever version you end up with it will be a notably well finished car with plenty of room in the front, adequate space in the rear for grown-ups and a reasonably sized boot. If you need extra space at the expense of losing that sporty feel, BMW will happily point you towards the new 2 Series mini MPV.

Out on the road in the most economical version of this latest 1 Series you soon enjoy the characteristic thrum from its three-cylinder diesel engine (distant but mildly sporty) and relish the way it moves the car with enthusiasm.

A crispy, firm gearchange and well-weighted steering combine with a ride that stays firmly in control without ever descending to discomfort to make this a car that covers ground with real enthusiasm.

And with fine economy too. A brisk drive over some challenging Wiltshire roads saw 57mpg on the trip computer, with a gentler session tipping the figure well into the 60s. That's a commendable figure and a realistic aim for a long term owner too.

The £395 worth of front sports seats were superbly comfortable, lacking only adjustable lumbar support (£230 extra) as a final flourish.

Even so, here is a car that looks set to keep BMW dealers and buyers happy for years to come.

TESTED

BMW 116d ED Plus 5 Door

Engine: 114bhp diesel

Warranty: Three years, 60,000 miles

Economy: The BMW 116d ED Plus can do 83.1mpg

Insurance: 15

Price: £22,560

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13 Mokka 1.4 SE Turbo, Leather seats, Bluetooth, 18" alloys, Sensors, 6100 miles, Misty Lake £15499
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Enjoyable experience in SEAT's beefed-up tough Leon

By Ian Donaldson

Most of the time in temperate Britain we get away with the worst of winter by driving more slowly and leaving a larger gap to the car in front.

If you're a belts and braces type, you might buy a set of winter tyres; the sort that look pretty normal but grip snow like a long lost friend.

That will probably do, unless you live up a rutted track or simply must get to work whatever the sky throws at you.

Or if you're a rugged outdoor type who looks forward to earning a muddy stripe up the back of a T-shirt on a mountain bike thrash through the forest.

Those individuals may need a car like the new Leon from SEAT, which takes an existing estate and adds a bit of off-road ruggedness that ought to cope with everything this side of an army assault course.

Called the Leon X-PERIENCE, the newcomer arrives in an easily understood three model range, offering the same 2.0 litre diesel engine with two power outputs (150 and 184 horsepower), with the latter attached only to an automatic gearbox.

Prices start at £24,385 for the SE, passing through £26,370 for the better equipped SE Technology with sat nav, DAB radio and full LED headlights and topping out with the £28,870 SE Technology with more powerful engine and 6-speed automatic gearbox.

All of them have suspension that sits the car a little further from the road (or muddy ruts) and a drive system that normally powers only the front wheels but can kick the rears into action in the blink of an eye if slippage is detected.

There are the usual subtle hints to the car's outback potential with plastic mouldings on wheel arches and sill and flashes of pretend alloy panels under the front and rear of the car. Inside, there are sporty seats in faux suede with orange stitching (nicer than it looks) and door panels unique to the X-PERIENCE.

Surprise

So, it's a subtle makeover, with even the badging keeping its voice down as it lets onlookers know this is the top of the Leon estate car tree.

SEAT reckons two of its main rivals will come from Volvo (V40 Cross Country) and Vauxhall (Insignia Country Tourer) and points out that both cost more than its own offering. Surprise!

What doesn't appear on the list is a car from elsewhere in the Volkswagen Group stable, in the shape of the Skoda Octavia estate. It uses the same engine as the SEAT but costs less and carries more cargo.To many eyes it appears the plainer machine and looks play a mighty part in any car purchase outside bargain basement territory.

Volkswagen itself offers a rival, but the 4x4 Golf Alltrack is more costly (at £27,050) but offers a bit more space. Not that a potential Golf buyer is likely to consider a Skoda - or a SEAT, perhaps.

There is gentle use of the SEAT's Spanish origin in talk about the car at its press introduction in the very-British Wye forest but it feels like any other product from the VW empire.

And that's a very good thing. It means the SEAT is set out simply to make the business of driving as untroubling as possible in a car that feels solidly made and ready for almost anything.

The press drive took in busy main roads and a bit of gentle forest track, both despatched without a moment's bother and with 46mpg showing on the trip computer at journey's end.

An enjoyable x-perience, in other words.

TESTED

SEAT Leon X-PERIENCE SE Technology 2.0 TDI 150 PS

Engine: 148bhp diesel

Warranty: Three years, 60,000 miles

Economy: The SEAT Leon X-PERIENCE can do 47.9mpg

Insurance group: 20

Price: £26,370

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Astra Excite 1.4, 5dr: Urban: 38.2 (7.4), Extra-urban: 57.7 (4.9), Combined: 48.7 (5.8). CO_2 emissions: 136g/km.#

Participating Retailers only. Model featured Astra Excite 1.4i 5dr in Power Red from £17,920 on the road. Offer price £12,595. Offer available on orders or registrations from 8 April to 1 July 2015, subject to availability. Offer available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only, excluding B2B). All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. UK-supplied vehicles only. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press.

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA range: Urban 21.7 (13.0) to 74.3 (3.8), Extra Urban 40.4 (7.0) to 94.2 (3.0), Combined 30.4 (9.3) to 88.3 (3.2). CO_2 emissions for the ŠKODA range 217 to 85g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Skoda range: Urban 19.6 (14.4) - 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) - 4.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) - 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions for the Skoda range 89 - 237g/km

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Stallion is well worth taking out for a ride

By Matt Joy

It's one of the most famous name tags in motoring and still the fastest selling car ever made. But more importantly, it's now being sold in the UK in right-hand-drive.

A new Mustang is news in itself, as it is one of the most iconic sports cars ever made and has a loyal following on both sides of The Pond. But this sixth-generation model is something more than that, because it has been designed to work in Europe – and even the UK – too.

The platform is new and the whole car is more sophisticated than before, while there's a choice of a 5.0-litre V8 as well as a more 21st Century option in the shape of a 2.3-litre four-cylinder turbo offering. There's a choice of coupe and convertible from the outset, and the whole car attempts to mix classic Mustang cues with modern sophistication.

The manner in which the 2015 Mustang manages to evoke memories of the 1965 original, but without slavishly copying it, is impressive.

It has great stance and impact on the road; whether it's parked or driving past, it's hard not to turn and look. The same goes for the inside, where the classic twin-cowl dashboard and toggle switches are present, although happily the retro theme isn't overdone.

The Mustang has one of the strongest images of any performance car and is still seen by many as the original low-cost, high-fun piece of escapism, and the latest version ticks all the right boxes to keep fans happy.

The Mustang is a relatively big car but with the focus on looks and performance, practicality inevitably takes a back seat.

Up front, the space on offer is decent, and taller drivers will be able to get comfortable; the standard sports seats are excellent. In the back, it's more compromised, and only short adults and children will be able to get comfortable as headroom is limited. The boot however is good with 408 litres of space on offer.

Handling

The original Mustang was fast, cheap and relatively simple, and while things have certainly moved on, the 2015 version isn't a million miles away.

Anyone buying one looking for the last word in Nurburgring-honed handling might be disappointed, but if it's fun you're after then it's spot-on. The 5.0-litre V8 is responsive, pushing it along with real purpose and venom when pressed and the noise is good too.

There are three different steering modes as well as driving modes, and with everything at its sharpest, the Mustang will happily play the hooligan.

In fact, it even has a Line-Lock mode, borrowed directly from the dragstrip, where the front brakes can be locked on so you can smoke the rear tyres. It sums up everything you need to know about this car and how it is the complete opposite of ultra-techy German rivals.

This is where the Mustang scores particularly well.

As well as an excellent standard specification, it is the bare bones that really drive the point home.

A 2+2 coupe with a V8 engine and a 0-62mph time of five seconds or less doesn't come cheap; there isn't a rival under £50,000.

There are rivals that are close on price and specification, but they can't compete with the Mustang's personality.

You could use the Mustang every day if you can handle the fuel bills, but really it is a car to be enjoyed by everyone.

Young or old, man or woman, the Mustang ethos is something that anyone can buy in to, and with such competitive pricing, it's hard not to be enticed. Clearly lots of other people think so, as the 2015 UK allocation is already sold out and if you want one you're looking at April 2016. You never know, it might even make a decent investment...

This car summed up in a single word: Genuine.

If this car was a drink, it would be a Kentucky Bourbon – naturally.

TESTED

Ford Mustang 5.0 V8 GT, £33,005
Engine: 5.0-litre petrol unit producing 412bhp and 387lb/ft of to rque
Transmission: Six-speed manual gearbox driving the rear wheels
Performance: Top speed 155mph, 0-62mph in 4.8 seconds
Economy: 20.9mpg combined
Emissions: 299g/km of CO

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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Kia 'SR7' range are: Urban 32.1 (8.8) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – (3.3), Combined 42.8 (6.6) – 78.5 (3.6). CO_2 Emissions are 149 – 94g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Models shown: Kia Rio 3-dr 'SR7' 1.25 84bhp 5-speed manual @ £10,845 including £1,000 customer saving, Kia cee'd 'SR7' 1.4 98bhp 6-speed manual @ £14,650 including £1,000 customer saving and Kia Picanto 'SR7' 1.0 68bhp 5-speed manual @ £9,610 including metallic paint with £700 customer saving. Customer savings vary by model derivative. Specification is subject to change without notice. Price, Reevoo score and number of reviews correct at time of going to press. †3 years' servicing (Kia Care-3) for £99 offer is only valid on applicable 'SR7' models. Log onto kia.co.uk/sr7 for full details. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty, for terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk. Offer not available with any other offer. Retail sales only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 01/04/2015 and 30/06/2015. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. 18's or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. 10% minimum deposit. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. Excess mileage charge 14.9p per mile. 25, 31 and 37 month terms. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle. (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. Brindley (Wolverhampton) 55 Penn Road Wolverhampton, WV2 4WW 01902 717702. **E L Bouts Motors Ltd trading as Brindley Kia Wolverhampton are a credit broker (not a lender) for the purposes of this financial promotion and can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction. You will not own the vehicle until all payments are made.**

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4 Pets & Animals

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5 Business & Farming

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6 Property

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that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ALFA ROMEO147, 2003, 5 months MoT, good runner but needs attention. £500 ono. 07771 870331.

ALFA ROMEO147, 2003, 5 months MoT, a good runner needs slight attention. £500 ono. Burntwood 07771 870331.

CITROEN PICASSO 1.6SX 2002, 12mth MoT, 57,000 miles only, CD, full elecs. Very good condition, £600. 07434 988 616.

HONDA CIVIC 1400, 98, MoT, good runner. £300.
07587 141101.

HYUNDAI AMICA GSi 02, 5 door, 1000cc, low miles, CD, alloys, elecs, 1 year MoT, £575. 07486 610 072.

HYUNDAI SANTA FE, 02, petrol, 2.4, 81k miles, 4x4, electric windows/mirrors, air con, MoT April 2016, sunroof, towbar. £1,400 ono. 07956 461776.

MERCEDES E280 1997, 194,000 Miles, Black, Needs attention. LPG £600 ono 07958 250157

PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 2002, excellent condition, 12 months MoT. £750 ono. 01922 443373.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 53 reg, full MoT. £1,100.
07922 902988.

RENAULT MEGAN5dr hatch, 2 owners, warranted 58K,full MoT, mint condition in/out. CD, sun roof, all electrics. £695. 01543 426050 / 07719 438082.

ROVER 1.8 auto, 54,000mls, MoT Sept £720ono. 01785 612095 / 07825 578770.

SUZUKI ALTO GL 04, 60k, full MoT. Lovely condition, £675. 07494 090 052.

cars over £1500

HONDA CIVIC, 2007, 2.2L SE I-CTDi, diesel, 118,000 miles, silver, leather interior, heated seats, air con, fsh, MoT, alloys, £3,600 ono. 07525 760363.

JAGUAR S-TYPE 3.0-V6-SE 12 months MoT. Low mileage, 27,000 miles since 2007, 51 reg, fsh. All Jag refinements. Full leather. Leaping Jag bonnet. Very nice example. Well looked after.
£1,795 ono. 01384 423924.

MAZDA 3 1600, 06 plate, blue, MoT till November, 70,000 miles, lady owner, mint condition, £2,600 ono. 07967 777825.

RANGEROVER SPORT HSE, 2005, 2.7 diesel auto, 5 door in red, touch screen, sat nav, parking sensors, full Mot, new alloys/tyres, all leather, electric, first to see will buy, £10,750.
01785 714446.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.5DCi, 07 reg, 48,000 miles, grey/blue, good condition and reliable. £3,250 ono. Telephone 0121 556 3107.

TOYOTA LAND CRUISER 1997, 160,946 miles, green, electric windows, air bag, alarm, MoT, central locking, pas, diesel, sunroof, stereo, swb, very good condition.
£2,000 ono.
07910 728384.

TOYOTA YARIS1300cc, 2008, 51,000mls, alloys, a/c, s/h, 5dr, MoT Mar 2016. £3,795. 01785 296633.

VAUXHALL ZAFRIA DESIGN, 2007, excellent condition, service history, 12 months MoT, £3,200 ono. 07929 068025.

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We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
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Plus
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classic cars

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10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
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TOP PRICE PAID 4 SCRAP CARS!
VANS! CAMPERS! MOT FAILURES!
ANYTHING CONSIDERED, FREE COLLECTION WITHIN THE HOUR! 7 DAYS
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Private and Trade welcome, domestic and commercial properties covered!

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

IVAN MARKLEW
(Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 31 Coronation Road Walsall WS9 9NG, who died on 27/06/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 05/08/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
SYDNEY MITCHELL LLP
346 Stratford Road Shirley
Solihull B90 3DN T442145

Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2010 (as amended)
The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planningservices@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.
15/0104/FL Mr Carl Powell FOR: Reconstruction of former stable building for commercial use (Affecting Public Footpath Ald0.152) AT: STOP BUILDINGS, REAR OF 211-212 NORTON ROAD, WALSALL, WS3 5AD
*** 15/0621/FL** c/o Norbuild Eco House Ltd, FOR:
Erection of 3 bed 2 storey detached house.
AT: Land adjacent to 23 Green Lane, Walsall, WS9 9BE
The application marked * does not accord with the provisions of the development plan for the area.

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

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55, WLTM genuine lady 55 - 60, with similar interests, days out, walks in the countryside.
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

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Gareth on 07979 997999 or Sal on 07940 503559.
For further information contact either
bamba@talktalk.net
or
bricoles@hotmail.com

general

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To be aged between 35 and 48 and a non-smoker. Good times guaranteed. Must be available mid to late July, 2015. Drop me a line to: **Box Number P19850**
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Gavin 07855 374621
Lee 07920 207391.

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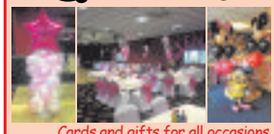

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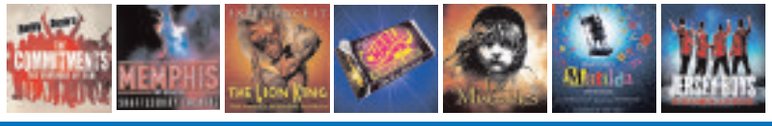

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Dart players are offered chance at the big time

THE British Darts Organisation(BDO) will again be offering aspiring dart players the chance to win a place in the World Masters and a World Championship play-off this year.

Local arrowsmiths have the incentive of wildcards which will take them to the organisation's two flagship events, both of which will be held at the famous Lakeside in January next year.

It is part of the prize on offer to the winner of the Wolverhampton Open which is being held on Saturday August 22, and this will be the third annual staging of the event.

A £1,000 prize also goes to the champion as part of a £3,000 total prize fund, £500 of which will land in the hands of the runner-up.

Another 14 cash prizes will be shared further down the pecking order, while £100 is up-for-grabs for the highest checkout of the day.

World Masters sponsors Winmau are using Wolverhampton Sports Arena for the event and they will be using their Blade 4 dartboards for each game.

Former Professional Darts Corporation player Tony Randell, from Solihull, took the spoils last year when he was up against a field of 93 players in the non-ranking tournament.

Players can pay their entry fee upon arrival at the venue, with registration from 10.30am to 11.30am before toeing the oche at noon.

It costs £10, and anyone who wants more information can call 01902 420 827 or visit info@wolverhamptonsportsarena.co.uk. BDO rules apply.

Unfinished business for Wood

Walsall's Jack Wood

WALSALL'S Jack Wood vowed he won't rest until he's shed himself of the 'nearly man' tag in top national competition, *writes Craig Birch*.

The 20-year-old, who represents Wednesbury Boxing Club, has spent more than seven years trying to prove he's the best of the best.

Wood, a scaffolder, has passed 80 unpaid bouts reaching two national semi-finals, two national finals and two Three Nations finals.

He came up short at the last hurdle for a fourth time last weekend, settling for silver with England at the Three Nations Elite championships.

The 20-year-old is the No.2 senior in the country at 60kg, having lost to nemesis Luke McCormack in the national finals of the Elite tournament.

This time, it came down to him and fellow Englishman Adam Cope to contest the Three Nations gold medal, in what appeared to be a close bout.

A unanimous points defeat Wood considered "harsh," but he's vowed to box on in the vest until he's finally proved himself to be the top dog.

He said: "It's that last part where it seems to go against me but there's been no luck of the draw, I have always been going in there with the best.

"It's unfinished business for me now, so I will have a nice break and then get back in training for our next club show, which will be in October.

"I want to turn pro, eventually, but I need to win that national title before I do. That won't happen until next year for me, though, at the earliest."

Wood was a Schools and Three Nations finalist in 2008.

Qualifiers teeing-up a place in medal final

BECKY Wyatt led qualifiers from the Midlands North region into England Golf's Grand Medal Final.

Becky, from Penn Golf Club, played two under her handicap with a net score of 70 to win the regional qualifier at Rothley Park in Leicestershire.

The other qualifiers include 12-year-old Hannah Golding, from Brocton Hall, near Stafford, who came third – and is the youngest player in the country to reach the Grand Medal Final. She was playing off 19 handicap and returned a net score of one-under 71.

Other qualifiers include Holly Langford (Perton Park) and Emma Sirrell (Bridgnorth).

They will play off with qualifiers from five other events at the Grand Medal Final at Frilford Heath in Oxfordshire in August.

It will be a feature of the new Golf Week festival, staged by England Golf to create a national grand finale for a host of handicap and team championships. All the regional finalists had returned the best four scores at their club in the England Golf Medals during 2014.

Becky first played golf as a child, but was never grabbed by the game. Then, three years ago she decided to have another go and said she, "fell in love with it." She has since made rapid progress, cutting her handicap from 26 to 18 last year, when she qualified for this competition.

This season she quickly came down to 16 and, after the regional medal final, is now playing off 15.

She played steadily at Rothley Park, by holding her nerve after a triple bogey on the 13th.

The future at Villa is bright, says Okore

DEFENDER Jores Okore believes the future is bright at Aston Villa, even if star striker Christian Benteke leaves the club.

The centre-back was part of the team that was on the wrong side of a 4-0 thrashing on Saturday as Arsenal came away from Wembley having lifted a record-breaking 12th FA Cup.

It is widely expected the showpiece final will be Benteke's last game for the club with both Liverpool and Chelsea reportedly ready to match the Belgian's £32.5million buyout clause.

But even if the striker does leave, Okore believes there is still plenty for Villa fans to be positive about when it comes to next season.

"If Christian does leave, the club will find someone else to replace him and we will work from there," the 22-year-old said.

"You can find quality players if Christian goes. But Christian is still here, he is under contract and hopefully we can keep him as that's in all our interests.

"We need to invest in the team and do what we can to keep him happy because he is a big threat for us."

Revolution

Whether Benteke — nicknamed the Beast — stays or goes, Okore believes manager Tim Sherwood is the right man to lead a claret and blue revolution.

"It's a really big summer, Tim has his own ideas and it's going be really exciting," he said. "He came in and he needed to change a lot of things quickly and he did well.

"But after we get a full pre-season under him I think we will be more stable.

"Hopefully we will get out of this relegation battle we have been in for the last few years, get to mid-table and develop from there.

"We can't struggle anymore. This is a young team and you have seen some good things for us. I think we can go far."

Meanwhile, Okore admitted Villa were comfortably outplayed in the final.

"It was really tough, we never seemed to get our game going," he said. "We lost a lot of balls in midfield and they scored just before half-time which helped them a lot.

"We needed to be sharper and keep the ball better.

"Every time we got possession we lost the ball in dangerous areas and we didn't create a lot of chances."

Gr-eight haul of medals by fighters

Pavaneet Dhami, Steve O'Gara, Liberty Humphries and Jamie Bates

STUDENTS from Willenhall Karate Academy competed at the Staffordshire International Karate Championships recently.

Liberty Humphries, aged10 and Jamie Bates,18, competed alongside team mates and european champions Pavaneet Dhami and Steve O'Gara and brought home eight medals.

Instructor and England representative Steve said: "I'm so proud of my students, they work very hard to achieve success and maintain their high standards.

"They are a credit to my club and to themselves, I look forward to see them grow in their up coming opportunities." Willenhall Karate Academy is based at Willenhall E-Act Academy on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For information contact Steve on 07888822094 or search Facebook

Pics seal first deal to bring in McGrath

RUSHALL Olympic boss Richard Sneekes has moved to make his first signing of the summer window, sealing a deal for midfielder Michael McGrath.

The 29-year-old played for Alvechurch in the Midlands Premier Division last season and has previously had spells with Halesowen Town and Stourport Swifts.

While McGrath becomes the first through the door at Dales Lane, plenty of Sneekes' squad from last season have also committed to another year.

Defenders Michael Townsend, Jack Duggan and Mitchell Tolley rejoin while midfielder Kris Taylor will also feature.

There has as of yet been no word on the future of golden boot winner Aaron Williams. The forward, who plundered 28 goals in the Northern Premier was recently called up to the England C Team and has been monitored by Burton Albion. He will be among the squad up against Republic of Ireland's Under-21 side.

Strong start for Saddlers is key, O'Connor

JAMES O'CONNOR thinks a strong start to next season will be key to a top six challenge for Walsall after signing a new one-year deal.

The 30-year-old has become the latest player to put pen to paper on a new contract at the Banks's and believes the Saddlers are capable of competing in the top half of League One next term. But he believes they will need to build momentum early.

"With a good start to the season and some momentum, I can see no reason whatsoever why we can't be up there challenging during the campaign ahead," he said. "There are no real standout teams and with the quality we have here, we have to aim as high as we can."

O'Connor made 35 appearances for the Saddlers after joining as a free agent a year ago. But only in the final third of the campaign did he discover any consistent form, after getting a run of games at centre-half.

"At this stage of my career I would say it was my preferred position," said the ex Doncaster man. ."

Wolves set up friendly in Doncaster

WOLVES have announced another pre-season friendly with a visit to Doncaster Rovers – and, in a break with tradition, will play their home friendly in midweek.

Kenny Jackett's side will travel to the Keepmoat Stadium on Saturday, August 1, (3pm) to face the League One side.

After being strong contenders for the play-offs for most of the season, Doncaster faded to 13th.

Tickets are priced at £10 and £5. Further information will be announced in due course. Meanwhile, Wolves will play their home friendly on Tuesday, July 28 against opponents to be announced. Wolves have arranged away friendlies against League Two champions Burton on July 18 and fellow promoted side Shrewsbury a week later.

Pulis has massive task ahead of him

Football

TONY PULIS' feet were barely on dry land when his phone started ringing.

Albion's head coach has been away from the club for the last week on important personal business, rowing 450 miles from London to Paris with just two hours' sleep between shifts in the boat.

Yet even as the exhausted 57-year-old was driven by wife Debbie back to Cherbourg to board a ferry back to England, his phone was red hot as he caught up with the latest news on his plans for next season at The Hawthorns.

"It doesn't stop," he said on his journey north after his epic fundraising trip. "I might not be at the ground at the moment, but the phone is always ringing as we're trying to get people in for next year.

"It's non-stop. Life is as busy or as quiet as you want it to be."

Pulis' enthusiasm for working holidays might come in useful this summer as he sets about building an Albion squad fit to avoid a third successive season of struggle at the foot of the Premier League table.

The work has already begun with Youssouf Mulumbu released, Boaz Myhill and Claudio Yacob kept on thanks to one-year options in their contracts and talks under way with Gareth McAuley over a new deal.

Yet with Myhill and Yacob already in discussions over extended stays, the futures of Jonas Olsson, Sebastien Pocognoli, Cristian Gamboa, Victor Anichebe, Stephane Sessegnon and Brown Ideye still uncertain and a host of spots to fill in a new-look squad, Pulis has his work cut out.

Recruits

Chances are, several other out-of-favour recruits from the last two ill-fated summer transfer windows will depart along with Mulumbu.

Pocognoli failed to figure under Pulis in the Premier League and was busy saying goodbyes to teammates at the end of the season, while Gamboa looks equally out of place in the Pulis era.

Finding buyers for both, though, could be easier said than done.

The same goes for Anichebe, whose injury record and inconsistent form means Albion would love to cash in, while the might also look to recoup some funds on Olsson before he enters the final year of his contract while Pulis would be happy to use Ideye as one of four forwards but would also consider selling for the right price.

"I honestly don't know what is going to happen," admitted Pulis. "I could sit here now and say four or five players will leave, but none of us know. It depends if anyone wants to take them, and if we can get the players we want. We can't just let people go with no-one to come in."

● Albion are hoping to wow their fans with more signings like Callum McManaman next season after admitting their squad is 'tiny'.

Pulis has targeted power and pace this summer as he looks to put his stamp on the Baggies team with several quality arrivals to strengthen his squad.

McManaman joined from Wigan for £4.75m in January but injuries limited him to 10 appearances – of which he started five – of the 18 league and cup games Albion played following his arrival.

Assistant boss Dave Kemp is looking to add similar quality to the 24-year-old this summer to improve Albion's chances of bettering their 13th position. "We want some more players like that," said Kemp.

Staffs out of T20 despite best efforts

A FINE 60 from Walsall batsman Tim Maxfield was unable to prevent Staffordshire's exit from the Unicorns Twenty20 competition at the group stages yesterday.

Maxfield's knock, which was achieved off 40 balls and included three fours and four sixes, was not enough to prevent them suffering a 12-run defeat against Cumberland in the Group One semi-finals yesterday.

Cumberland had earlier made 167-8 with Kadeer Ali the pick of the Staffs bowlers, taking 2-18. Maxfield led the charge for Staffordshire with his half-century but he was one of only three players on the side that managed double figures as they fell short of their winning total on 155-8. Staffordshire had been hoping to advance to the group final.

Sport

Okore looks to a bright future
Page 51

Gr-eight haul of karate medals
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Mantom hits out at too soft claim

MIDFIELDER Sam Mantom has rejected claims Walsall are 'too soft' as he sets sights on a promotion challenge next season.

The Saddlers finished top of the League One Fair Play table for the second year running and have been criticised at times for a lack of aggression.

Goalkeeper Richard O'Donnell, who is set to leave the club after agreeing terms with Wigan, claimed they needed to develop a 'nasty streak' in order to climb the league.

But Mantom insists there is no lack of passion in the dressing room.

"I wouldn't say we were too soft – maybe people are looking at the last half an hour against Bristol City," he said. "That was a very weird ending to the season.

"The gaffer and the staff have put a training ground in place where it's a pleasure to go to work.

"Everyone who has come here has improved but we want to be successful and we want to get promoted.

"Don't get me wrong, when things go wrong, people stand up and be counted.

"Words are said behind closed doors. People won't say it in public but it does happen, just like I think it happens at every club."

The Saddlers picked up just 45 bookings during the course of the season while Adam Chambers was the only player to be dismissed, though his red card in the 1-0 FA Cup defeat to Shrewsbury was rescinded.

Mantom, meanwhile, is aiming to hit the ground running after missing much of the season with a knee injury. The 23-year-old was named player of the year for the 2013/14 campaign but didn't play his first full game until March.

Wallace looks to reach a new level under Jackett

JED WALLACE admits he has been 'blown away' by the scale of Wolves' ambition as he revealed his Molineux move is a dream come true.

The £275,000 signing from Portsmouth believes he can take his game to a whole new level after confessing he has been bowled over by his new surroundings.

"Wolves blew me away with their ambition. It was unbelievable," said the 21-year-old attacking midfielder.

"After walking around there for two or three hours and speaking to people, I was thinking it was a move which can take my game to a whole new level.

"Molineux is unbelievable and I couldn't be happier – it's the best feeling to sign for a club like that.

"They're going for the Premier League – they're gunning for it. Kenny Jackett has given me a chance and to play at a club like that in that division is a dream come true. If I do well here, my career can really take off, like I always wanted it to. Wolves went out of their way to make me feel welcome."

He believes he can rival the 17 goals he scored for Pompey last season.

We know what's needed, says Gamble

Football

CHIEF executive Stefan Gamble insists Walsall know what is needed to compete for a play-off place next season.

The Saddlers' last sustained promotion push came back in the 2012/13 campaign when they finished ninth – six points outside the play-offs – in Dean Smith's first full season in charge.

After two successive mid-table finishes, hopes are high at the Banks's that Walsall can once again compete for promotion in what is expected to be an open and exciting League One.

And Gamble trusts the club has what it takes to be successful

"We've got a lot of players signed on contracts for next season and we've still got a few out of contract that we're working on. So we're positive moving forwards, we want to do better than last season," Gamble said.

"We want to have a more concerted push for the Championship – that has to be the aim because there were some fantastic highs last season but also some areas where we under-achieved."

Walsall were the division's draw specialists in 2014/15 having shared the spoils 17 times. And Gamble believes converting those draws into wins is key for future success.

"We didn't score enough goals last season but the defence was pretty solid throughout apart from a few exceptions," he said.

"I think we've got to convert those draws into wins if we're going to have a sustained push for promotion," Gamble added.

"On the whole there's a lot that doesn't need fixing but there are couple of areas where we need to improve."

Meanwhile, Walsall are reported to be interested in signing out-of-contract Plymouth forward Lewis Alessandra.

GUNNERS SHOW THEIR FOUR-CE

Arsenal 4 Villa 0

It was a day that promised much but delivered so painfully little.

Villa fans may have walked along Wembley Way in hope rather than expectation before the start of the 134th FA Cup final.

But never, in their worst nightmares, would they have believed their biggest day out in more than 20 years would turn into such disappointment.

In the modern era of football, where winning trophies is becoming increasingly difficult for anyone outside the top four, trips to Wembley have to savoured.

Yet as their manager stood with his head in his hands after Per Mertesacker, with the simplest of headers, put Arsenal 3-0 ahead – many Villa fans headed to the exit doors of the world's most famous stadium.

When that goal went in, there was 30 minutes still remaining – with Sherwood opting to bring on midfield enforcer Carlos Sánchez in a bid to prevent any further damage.

Juggernaut

But Villa were unable to stop the Arsenal juggernaut from the first whistle to the last and when Olivier Giroud swept home a fourth in stoppage time, he wrapped up an historical day for Arsène Wenger's side.

Arsenal are now the only team to have lifted the FA Cup 12 times. The result also ensured Wenger became only the second manager, and the first foreigner, to lift the trophy six times – with Villa great George Ramsey the other man to do so.

Arsenal were electric, with Santi Cazorla and Mesut Özil dominant in midfield.

The Spaniard and the German may not be the biggest or the strongest, but they ran the game with a finesse Villa could never get to grips with.

Even when Sherwood's side did manage to get on the ball, they were bereft of any movement or invention with their passing sloppy and their tackling rash.

A cross from the the lively Nacho Monreal was headed back across goal by Alexis Sanchez and, with Villa's defenders failing to react, Walcott fired an unstoppable strike past Shay Given.

Villa's Ron Vlaar seems to say it all as he holds his head in frustration and disappointment

Only brilliance from keeper Given and left-back Kieran Richardson, with a vital block, had ensured the men in claret and blue went in at the break just a solitary goal down.

But with an inspirational talk from Sherwood and a positive start to the second period, there was still genuine belief Villa could turn things around.

Sadly, whatever was said at the interval was soon irrelevant after Sanchez scored a goal fitting for a final.

The winger, who now looks a snip at £30m, picked up the ball 25 yards from goal and fired an unstoppable strike, which dipped and swerved past Given and into the net. It was a world-class finish from a world-class player and when Mertesacker then made it 3-0 everybody knew Villa's 58-year wait for an FA Cup was set to rumble on.

Despite everything, Villa did improve slightly.

Jack Grealish, of whom so much was expected, had a decent appeal for a penalty turned down late on when Héctor Bellerín tugged at his shirt.

While Gabby Agbonlahor had previously seen a penalty appeal waved away after he was tumbled to the ground.

Sherwood was, understandably, left devastated at the final whistle with this performance much similar to Villa under Paul Lambert.

Hutton will be focusing on positives

VILLA full-back Alan Hutton is determined to focus on the positives – despite his side suffering the equal worst FA Cup final defeat since 1903.

Only Chelsea in 1994 and Brighton & Hove Albion in 1983, both to Manchester United, have suffered the ignominy of a 4-0 Cup final reverse – and the latter only after it went to a replay.

But Hutton believes there is plenty to be thankful for after Tim Sherwood saved Villa from Premier League relegation and guided them to the final of the world's oldest and most famous domestic cup competition for the first time since 2000.

"We have to take the positives – we stayed up and got to a final," said the defender.

"When the new manager came in, things turned and there's a lot of positives about us, so we need to strengthen the squad and see where we can go."

As well as targeting the transfer market, the 30-year-old knows the current side need to work even harder to make sure the Villans do not find themselves back in a battle to avoid the drop next year.

"Everyone knows the squad needs to be strengthened and every squad needs to have competition for places," he said. "We have to do better, improve ourselves and train as hard as we can."

Although Villa came up short on the day, the Scottish international – who has revived his Villa career after ending last season on loan at Bolton in the Championship – was keen to heap praise on to the victors of the day.

"Arsenal are a world-class team – you can't take anything away from them because they have quality all over the pitch," he said.

Jukes holds on to be the champ

BLOXWICH Golf Club ace Daniel Jukes is the new Staffordshire Amateur Stroke Play champion after coming through a nerve-racking sudden death play-off.

Jukes edged out Penn's James Willis on the 37th hole to lift the trophy after both players had finished tied on 141.

The competition, at Jukes' home course, was decided over 36 holes and Jukes made a fine start as he carded 68 in round one.

Willis was two shots behind him at this stage having carded 70 but he managed a 71 in round two while Jukes shot 73, leaving them needing a tie-breaker. Staffordshire Union of Golf Clubs president Roger Waite said: "It is always exciting when it goes to a play-off."

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